

546-0755-87
127 P9
299 C9

JPRS-LAM-87-005

20 JANUARY 1987

Latin America Report

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

20 JANUARY 1987

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ALP Members, Supporters Irked at Cabinet Retrenchment (THE WORKERS VOICE, 19 Nov 86).....	1
Burton Has Two Opposition Appointees to Senate Fired (THE WORKERS VOICE, 21 Nov 86).....	2
Government Agrees To Investigate Airport Project Charges (THE WORKERS VOICE, 21 Nov 86).....	3
Briefs	
Airport Security	4

ARGENTINA

Briefs	
Justicialist Party Victory	5
Officials Reaffirm Privatization Plans	5
Labor-Government Dialogue	6

BRAZIL

USSR Seeks To Expand Trade Relations (VEJA, 3 Dec 86).....	7
Suriname To Seek Increased Military Aid (Roberto Godoy; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 14 Dec 86).....	8
Ministers 'Lobby' To Influence New Constitution (Zenaide Azeredo; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 30 Nov 86).....	10

Funaro Discusses Price Freeze, Salaries (Brasilia Domestic Service, 16 Dec 86).....	14
PCB Reviews Electoral Defeat, Appoints New Chief (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 17 Dec 86).....	16
CNBB Prioritizes Topics for Itaici Conference Agenda (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 30 Nov 86).....	18
Pazzianotto Appointed Coordinator of Social Pact (Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network, 10 Dec 86)..	20
October Unemployment Rate Lowest of Year (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 3 Dec 86).....	22
First SS-300 Missile Test in August 1987; New Arms Firm (O GLOBO, 30 Nov 86).....	24
Aeronautics Company To Build Fighter Jet Parts (Flavio Nery; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 9 Dec 86).....	26
Military Equipment To Be Sold to Jordan (Roberto Godoy; O ESTADO SAO PAULO, 10 Dec 86).....	28
Briefs Sanctions Against South Africa	30
COLOMBIA	
Barco's Performance Poll Results Released (EL TIEMPO, 19 Oct 86).....	31
Barco on Freedom of Press, Role of Journalism (EL ESPECTADOR, 23 Oct 86).....	36
New Liberal Group Founded To Promote Party Unity (EL TIEMPO, 13 Oct 86).....	39
Plans To Promote Prisoner Exchange Agreement (EL COLOMBIANO, 23 Oct 86).....	40
COSTA RICA	
ICJ Suit Sparks Controversy Over Contadora Support (LA NACION, 6, 11 Nov 86; LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA, 29 Aug-4 Sep 86).....	42
Arias Chides Contadoras	42
Government Case 'Strong'	43
Editorial Chastizes Arias	44

CUBA

Ramiro Valdes, Others Decorated	46
---------------------------------	----

ECUADOR

Foreign Minister Reports Results of Trip Abroad (Quito Radio Quito, 8 Dec 86).....	47
Briefs	
Executive Branch Scored	48
New Oil Wells Planned	48

JAMAICA

Seaga Accuses Opposition of Links With Drug Dealers (THE DAILY GLEANER, 1 Dec 86).....	49
Another Plane Seized in U.S. for Smuggled Marijuana (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 9 Dec 86).....	51
Opposition Party's Reaction	51
Airline Official's Comment	52
Political Developments Involve Ruling JLP, Opposition PNP (THE DAILY GLEANER, 28, 29 Nov 86; THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 30 Nov 86).....	53
JLP Election Preparations	53
PNP Foreign Affairs Spokesman	54
Manley on JLP 'Caretakers'	54
JLP Reorganization	55
Columnist Carl Strone Discusses Gun Violence Situation (THE DAILY GLEANER, 24 Nov 86).....	57
Agreement on Textile Mill Operation Signed With China (THE DAILY GLEANER, 29 Nov 86).....	59
Government Launches Inquiry Into Sugar Concerns (THE DAILY GLEANER, 29 Nov 86).....	60
Briefs	
Senate Ministerial Change	61

NICARAGUA

Lack of Criticism in Journalism Noted (Eduardo Estrada M.; EL NUEVO DIARIO, 18, 19 Nov 86).....	62
--	----

Sandinist Radio, Information Dissemination Questioned (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 17, 21 Nov 86).....	67
Radio Sandino Audience Loss	67
Ministers 'Humiliate' Journalists	68
Briefs	
Preliminary Export Figures	72
EEC, Red Cross, Netherlands Donations	72
PANAMA	
Military Refuses To Supply Itemized Budget Figures (Flor Quintero; LA PRENSA, 14 Dec 86).....	73
PERU	
Del Castillo Interviewed on Election, Future Plans (Jorge del Castillo Interview; EL NATIONAL, 13 Nov 86)....	75
ST LUCIA	
PLP Organ Slams U.S.-Imposed Militarism, Hypocrisy (Editorial; CRUSADER, 15 Nov 86).....	82
SLP Infighting Said To Hamper Future at Polls (Editorial; CRUSADER, 1 Nov 86).....	84
SLP Leader Hunte Hits UWP, Describes Party's Aims (Julian Hunte; THE WEEKEND VOICE, 25 Oct 86).....	86
Features of Labor Party's Election Platform Reported (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 25 Oct 86).....	89
SLP Approach To Necessary Economic Changes Outlined (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 25 Oct 86).....	91
SLP Poses Policy Questions to UWP Administration (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 25 Oct 86).....	93
ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	
UPM Official Hits Dispatch of RSS Forces to Grenada (DAILY EXPRESS, 8 Dec 86).....	94
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	
Excerpts From Text of NAR's 15-Part Election Manifesto (SUNDAY EXPRESS, 7 Dec 86).....	95

CPTU Lends Support To Call for Trade Union Federation (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 12 Dec 86).....	116
--	-----

URUGUAY

Opposition Presents Alternate 'Full Stop' Bill (EFE, 20 Dec 86).....	117
Young Communist Leaders Grant Conference (EL DIA, 6 Dec 86).....	119
Briefs Blanco Party Faction Splits	120

/12223

ALP MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS IRKED AT CABINET RETRENCHMENT

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 19 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

Members and supporters of the ALP were very disappointed when the Prime Minister allowed the mid-term convention of his party which was held in October this year, to pass without announcing a re-shuffling of his Cabinet ministers.

The rank and file membership of the party expected a 'changing of the guard' as they are of the opinion that many ministers have held their ministries for too long now and honestly believe that they own them and so have become very complacent and arrogant. Since the Prime Minister, even though we are operating under the West minister type political system have not for ten years seemed inclined willing or -ble to shift around his ministers, then the public is left to wonder who indeed runs the show, in spite of his boast that the others advise, but he decides. He has given them a free hand to be involved in business other than that for which the people elected them. While it appears to be the style now-a-days that when even a politician is elected, he and his constituents expect him to be an automatic candidate for a ministry, we still insist that

the ALP is overloaded with ministers, which allows the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate to constantly refer to the Lower House of Parliament as the 'House of ministers', we firmly believe that PM should now re-organise and re-shuffle his Cabinet. We would humbly suggest that he starts with the ministry of Communications, where we have always said that there is a conflict of interest.

The Ministry of Health could be another one, this is always a ministry with which the public is never satisfied. Then there are the ministries of Education, Public Works and Agriculture whose incumbents can be switched around.

While the public is satisfied with the economic progress which the ALP Government has created for the country over the last 10 years, they are fed up with the behaviour of some ministers especially the 'business men ministers' and demand that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister do something about them.

The best Xmas present which the PM can give to his supporters and the country on the whole is a major re-organizing and re-shuffling of his Cabinet. Nothing less would suffice

/9274

CSO: 3298/063

BURTON HAS TWO OPPOSITION APPOINTEES TO SENATE FIRED

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 21 Nov 86 p 1

[Excerpts]

The Governor General, acting on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives, the Honourable Eric Burton revoked the senatorial appointments of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate the Hon. McChesney George and fellow Barbudan, chairman of the Barbuda Council, Hon. Arthur Nibbs.

The move was expected after Sen. Nibbs, encouraged by Sen. George aligned themselves with the Opposition in Barbuda, headed by secessionist minded Hilbourne Frank. Senator Nibbs also journeyed to Antigua and spoke at a political public meeting

Senator Nibbs and his fellow Barbudans, since their appointment to the Senate, have worked very closely with the Central Government, but since controversial American Ed Joiner, has invested in Barbuda, both senators have become not only antagonistic to their leader but also to the Central Government.

The remaining senators on the opposition benches are the Honourable, Llewellyn Smith, and Charlesworth Samuel, there is also independent Senator Roy Mendes, the Barbuda Council Representative Sen. George James and the Barbudan appointed to the senate by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Senator Michael Harris. All Senators were appointed after the 1984 elections.

[Line dropped]

organised by the United National Democratic Party, where he publicly disagreed with the policies of his party and those of the Representative for Barbuda, who appointed him to the Senate. With the deflection of Nibbs and George. Hilbourne Frank's party now holds the balance of power in the Barbuda Council. Barbuda watchers now expects the council's nominee to the senate, the Honourable George James to have his appointment revoked by the council.

CSO: 3298/063

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO INVESTIGATE AIRPORT PROJECT CHARGES

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 21 Nov 86 p 2

[Text] The Honourable Vere C. Bird (Jnr.) Minister of Public Utilities and Communications requested the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to appoint an independent person to undertake an investigation into the rehabilitation project at V. C. Bird International Airport and to make his findings known to the public.

2. The Government has accepted the request of the minister and has decided to establish a public investigation into the circumstances surrounding work at the V. C. Bird International Airport involving, among other things rehabilitation of the runway, the establishment of additional parking aprons, lighting, installation of navigational landing system, engineering for the parallel taxiway and refurbishing of the standby electrical power plant and transformer bank.

3. The Government will shortly appoint an eminent Caribbean Jurist to undertake the investigation and to make his finding public. The Government is now in the process of identifying a suitably qualified person.

4. The Government further decided to take this step in the wake of newspaper articles in France which accuse French public officials of wrong doing. While the Government notes the French publications have not suggested misbehaviour by officials of the Antigua and Barbuda Government, account has been taken of public comments made by opposition politicians in Antigua and Barbuda alleging misconduct.

/9274

CSO: 3298/063

BRIEFS

AIRPORT SECURITY--Security officers at the V. C. Bird International Airport are holding activities commemorating the first-ever Security Awareness Week, from November 23rd to 28th. A spokesman for the group says the activities are organised by the officers themselves who are cognisant of the need for a better equipped department with officers well knowledgeable in anti-hijacking techniques and to improve their skills generally. The activities are also aimed at raising the consciousness of the public about the vital importance of Aviation Security. The programme of events centre on a one-week workshop under the theme: Aiming To Ensure Safer Flying. A number of posters will be pasted around St John's carrying slogans such as: No Check, No Fly, Respect Our Restricted Areas, and Never Accept Sealed Packages When Flying. The workshop will be conducted by Canadian Aviation Security Expert, Mr D. P. Wershlox, whose services are arranged through Air Canada. [Text] [St Johns HERALD in English 19 Nov 86 p 3] /9274

CSO: 3298/063

BRIEFS

JUSTICIALIST PARTY VICTORY--(NA-DYN)--San Luis--The Justicialist Party posted a landslide victory over the Radical and Christian Democrat parties in the popular plebiscite for the election of a national senator in San Luis last Sunday. Re-elected senator Oraldo Britos received 30,329 votes of a total of 58,600 (60.5 percent) for the six Peronist candidates while his main Radical opponent, Juan Carlos Arnaldi, polled 16,893 votes. The four Radical candidates rounded off 36,846 votes (39.03 percent) and the only Christian Democrat hopeful received 393 votes (0.2 percent). Britos will be confirmed as senator next Thursday during a special session of the provincial legislature. Thirty deputies -- fifteen Peronists and 15 Radicals -- will reelect him for a nine-year term following a "political agreement" between the major provincial forces to respect the outcome of the referendum. On learning of his victory Britos pointed out he was the first national senator in Argentine history to be elected through direct vote and vowed to fight against the full stop bill in Congress. The newly elected senator said "I have nothing against the Armed Forces (...) but we cannot set obstacles to justice." [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Dec 86 p 11 PY] /12624

OFFICIALS REAFFIRM PRIVATIZATION PLANS--(NA-DYN)--President Rual Alfonsin yesterday inaugurated four petrochemical plants in the Buenos Aires coastal city of Bahia Blanca. Although the President did not make any announcements concerning the privatization of the state petrochemical companies, as was expected, Industry and Foreign Trade Secretary Roberto Lavagna reaffirmed the government's decision to sell the total of government-held shares in the four plants of the Indupa SA Petrochemical Company. During the inauguration ceremony, the President, who was hissed by a group of pensioners and members of the Movement to Socialism (MAS) and Communist Parties, said that the industrial activity of third quarter of 1986 was "the highest registered in Argentina since 1810," stressing that the country "will continue to grow during next year" and inflation will be brought down. Alfonsin also said that the task of the government is to "help," but not "to replace private initiative." The government will support the development of the Patagonic region through financial help, he added. In this respect, he said that the government will pull out of the petrochemical companies located in Bahia Blanca, and that the funds obtained from the sale to private concerns will be allocated to the development of Patagonic industries. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Dec 86 PY] /12624

LABOR-GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE--(NA-DYN)--General Confederation of Labour (CGT) Secretary-general Saul Ubaldini yesterday said that "dialogue with the government has not been cut off," and voiced willingness to attend the Olivos presidential residence Asado suggested by President Raul Alfonsin if the invitation is formalized. Ubaldini also ratified a scheduled meeting of the CGT federal committee on January 8, while other labour chiefs said it was too early to predict whether by then the CGT would be determined to continue negotiations or ready to adopt strike measures. Ubaldini spoke to the press following a CGT directive council meeting called to grapple with fresh labour-government tension. The labour boss said a settlement with the government could still be reached, even though he stormed out of talks with three cabinet ministers on Monday when they refused to consider December wage hikes. In a press release yesterday, the CGT pinned the blame for the breakdown of first-round bargaining deliberations with the government on Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, who denied that real wages had plummeted and added that "even should the CGT be proved right there will be no salary adjustments whatsoever" before 1976. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Dec 86 p 11 PY] /12624

CSO: 3300/6

USSR SEEKS TO EXPAND TRADE RELATIONS

Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 3 Dec 86 p 138

[Text] Having occupied the post of Soviet ambassador to Brazil for just over a month, Victor Isakov, 54, still has problems speaking Portuguese fluently. But language was no obstacle as he conveyed the Moscow government's ideas to a group of executives from Brazil's most important foreign trade firms who had gathered at the Businessmen's Center in Sao Paulo last Thursday to listen to him--a rare event in the day-to-day life of Brazilian exporters and importers, who are not accustomed to trading with the USSR. "There is no difficulty of any kind in relations between Brazil and the Soviet Union," Isakov pointed out. "We have no problems related to foreign debt, we do not go along with protectionism, and we are not threatening any economic or political sanctions," he added in an allusion to the trade difficulties that have been placing Brazil and the United States in opposing camps.

The message from the Soviet ambassador, who is making his first appearance in the Brazilian business world at a time when the USSR is beginning to experiment with changes in its rigidly centralized economy, has its source in a situation he hopes to reverse. During the just over 20 years of trading partnership between the USSR and Brazil, the figures have been continuously unfavorable to the Soviet Union. For the first 6 months of 1986, 86.5 percent of the \$355 million in trade between the two countries represented Brazilian exports such as cocoa, sugar, soluble coffee, and steel. The USSR is hoping to broaden the range of Brazilian purchases, which have been centered mainly on petroleum, chemicals for fertilizers, and machinery and equipment.

To achieve that objective, Isakov has brought from Moscow a willingness to offer Brazilian businessmen other forms of trade that will not necessarily require an outlay of dollars. He announced: "We want to study the possibility of exchanging products, providing services, and forming mixed-capital companies." Isakov believes that the ground for intensifying trade relations between the two countries is extremely fertile. He said: "We know in Moscow that there are opportunities in Brazil to be exploited. We want to become more familiar with them."

11798

CSO: 3342/43

SURINAME TO SEEK INCREASED MILITARY AID

PY160320 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Dec 86 p 16

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] The government of Suriname, facing, without much success, a guerrilla movement in the east of the country, will formally ask Brazil for "military and diplomatic support" to sustain its fight against the rebels. The head of the cabinet of national leader Desire Bouterse should arrive in Brasilia "at any time" to meet with foreign Ministry officials. The visit of Renke Heidweiler [first name as published] is considered "fundamental" in Paramaribo, according to information that O ESTADO received by phone yesterday from the palace where Bouterse lives. The person on the phone identified himself only as "Doctor Gerard."

Brazil and Suriname have had a bilateral "economic, technical, financial and military assistance" agreement since 1983. A \$20 million line of credit opened on that occasion has been partially used to buy equipment for the Suriname Armed Forces: 11 Urutu EE-11 amphibious Armored Personnel Carriers, Cascavel EE-9 light tanks, both manufactured by Engesa (Specialized Engineers, Inc), and a wide array of ammunitions, uniforms, rations, parts and components, radio kits, and a variety of logistical support items.

The situation in Suriname, a country with only 380,000 inhabitants, is quite delicate. The guerrillas are led by Ronny Brunswijck, a strange individual capable of an unusual behavior as was proven when he attended a press conference with foreign journalist wearing a T-shirt bearing the inscription of Araken, a character created by Globo Television to represent the Brazilian soccer fan in the World Soccer Tournament in Mexico. His group is made up of 400 men and women, a force ten times larger than at the beginning of the rebellion two years ago.

Another difference between 1984 and now is that now his group wins the skirmishes against government troops. They have been adding victory after victory since August, launching quick and well-coordinated raids from an area in the jungle near the village of Albina Brunswijck.

One of the Brunswijck-led guerrillas' coups was the shooting down, in September, of a Brazilian flag helicopter from the Lider Taxi Service. The

helicopter had been chartered to transport Surinamese Government soldiers and materiel behind the guerrillas' position.

The rebel group receives logistical support from the Suriname's Liberation Council in the Netherlands, which has been buying light weapons from clandestine suppliers in Europe. Recently, however, the rebels have been using medium-range rockets, light artillery units, and 80-mm mortars in their attacks. The guerrillas usually operates in neighboring French Guyana to protect themselves from retaliation by the forces from the paramaribo government. Many refugees are using the same route, seeking shelter on the other side of the border. This situation prompted France in the past weeks to deploy troops that are normally headquartered in Martinique. The Surinamese government considered that move "a gesture of aggression."

Bouterse would like to have the episode reviewed by the UN Security Council, with the intention of getting it to condemn what he considers to be a "white intervention." The most serious fact, however, was denounced in Amsterdam by exiled former President Henke Chin A Sen.

According to the former president, during a recent secret trip he made to Suriname to meet with the chief of the armed resistance, he personally saw and received documents proving the participation of Libyan advisers "in key positions of the Bouterse's military hierarchy." This professional assistance may have resulted in the worsening of the campaign to punish those who are suspected of supporting Brunswijk. In its annual report, the Red Cross says that the toll in the struggle in Suriname has reached the 200 mark.

/12913

CS0: 3342/51

MINISTERS 'LOBBY' TO INFLUENCE NEW CONSTITUTION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Nov 86 p 14

[Article by Zenaide Azeredo]

[Text] Brasilia--Never has the executive branch prepared so hard to cope with the legislative branch as it is doing now. The National Constitutional Assembly is coming up, with the result that the all-powerful authority now centralized in the Presidency of the Republic may vanish, and when that happens, all the ministries, both military and civilian--especially those in the economic area--may lose prestige and influence.

No one is unaware that lobbying--putting pressure on the congressmen--will be the distinctive feature of this third Brazilian Constituent Assembly, and that explains the great to-do in the ministries with a view to stepping up their activity among the people's elected representatives as the latter draw up the next Constitution. Here is where the parliamentary advisers are emerging in full force. The present turmoil is so great that the Ministry of Justice is following the example of all the other ministries and establishing that post of adviser along conventional lines. Until now, the Ministry of Justice has had only a Department of Legislative Affairs responsible for carrying out studies and collecting information with respect to the National Congress.

According to the advisers closest to Minister Paulo Brossard, the universe of topics to be debated by the Constituent Assembly and the importance of most of those topics more than justifies the change in current procedure as far as the ministry's relations with Congress are concerned.

And the same thing is happening to a greater or lesser degree in all the ministries, where the parliamentary adviser is gaining special prominence.

That importance was expressed most clearly last Thursday, when Marco Maciel, chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency, met in his office with the parliamentary advisers from all the ministries for the purpose of jointly establishing the guidelines to be followed by all during the National Constituent Assembly--that is, deciding how the executive branch would deal with the 600 members of the Constituent Assembly.

From the practical standpoint, according to one participant in that meeting, it was not possible to decide anything for the present, since no one knows yet how the Constituent Assembly will operate, how many committees it will have, or how it will divide its work between the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

But from the strategic standpoint, there are no more doubts as to how the parliamentary advisers are to present their demands and expectations to the members of the Constituent Assembly.

The greatest stir is coming from the military area. Having been accustomed for the past 20 years to achieving their objectives without reference to the National Congress or congressmen, the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Armed Forces General Staff [EMFA] were the first, after the dawning of the New Republic, to upgrade and beef up their parliamentary advisory offices. Even the EMFA, which is a different kind of ministry in that it advises the president of the republic on military matters and often takes over functions from the other ministries, established its own parliamentary advisory office.

The Army, Navy, and Air Force are currently operating with few parliamentary advisers, but they recognize that the number will have to be increased when the National Constituent Assembly begins its work. The reason, as they admit, is that Brazil is in a new phase in which the National Congress is being accorded higher status. But paradoxically, in this context of accepting the rules of the game, the military are sticking to their old strategy of preserving the constitutional role of the Armed Forces, and their chief goal is to see that role retained in the new Constitution. And naturally, that attitude is associated with years past, seeing that the most recent definition of the constitutional role of the Armed Forces dates from the constitutional amendment of 1960, which was put through by the military junta.

The military are aware of this and also of the makeup of the National Congress, about 70 percent of whose members were newly elected and whose complexion is much more progressive than that which has prevailed until now.

But that does not frighten them, and they intend to talk to each member of the Constituent Assembly, if possible, in a superhuman effort to have their prerogatives recognized in the next Constitution. While safeguarding the minor details differentiating them--their separate areas of sovereignty in the air, at sea, and on land--they nevertheless have a common objective: their participation in the preservation of internal security by guaranteeing law and order.

A significant percentage of the congressmen feel, however, that that is a task not for the Army, Navy, and Air Force but for the Military Police or a national guard, as is the case in the developed countries. In their defense, they mention the experience of the past 20 years, in which the Armed Forces have acted as the country's self-appointed ideological guardian, with the highly damaging effect that has had on the prestige of the military.

But the military see things differently, feeling that the congressmen are not fully aware of the activities of the Armed Forces. And on the strength of

their successes with congressmen during the first 2 years of the New Republic, during which, thanks to daily efforts by their parliamentary advisers, they have managed to win approval for a sizable percentage of their projects, they will again focus on "conversation"--on dialogue. This will be a different kind of lobbying, with no economic pressure, and it has been described by one military adviser as "a serious and professional effort to defend the interests of the Armed Forces." According to another military man, the fact that there are new representatives of the PT [Workers Party], the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], or even the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] in Congress will change nothing as far as the congressional picture is concerned because, he says, it will be easier to talk and achieve something with those members of the Constituent Assembly than with others whose positions are more conservative. In practice, however, that concern exists under the surface, since even before the elections were really over, the chef de cabinet of one military ministry traveled to the United States and Europe, where, among other topics, he informed his staff abroad of the election results and the new congressional picture, the attention that must be paid to the new governors, the possibility that social affairs would be given a larger place in the new Constitution, and, paradoxically, the response to the PMDB's increased size and predominance in the makeup of the new Congress.

Concerns in the area of foreign policy are similar to those existing in the military sector, even though the candidates for the National Constituent Assembly did not much concern themselves with that area--in contrast to the attention they paid to the problematics of national security.

But even though not expecting any substantial changes, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will do everything possible in dealing with the Constituent Assembly to guarantee its current autonomy.

Diplomats argue that it would be very complicated if, for example, Brazil had to seek congressional authorization to sign agreements with other countries in the world. Congressional involvement today is very limited: ambassadorial appointments are reviewed by the Senate, and the Chamber of Deputies approves international agreements, but supplementary agreements are not subject to congressional approval.

And the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not want them to be, its argument being that if they were, the confidence that other countries place in Brazil might be weakened if Congress decided to debate and even reject bilateral agreements that had already been signed.

Like the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs and the military ministries, every ministry wants certain things from the Constituent Assembly. The Ministry of Interior, for example, wants to be firmly established as a ministry for dealing with regional problems, but since it is not in a position to act alone, it is proposing to carry out integrated work with the Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture to keep people on the land.

And in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, a complete plan for working with the members of the Constituent Assembly has been underway for a long

time. Minister Deni Schartz wants approval for two laws: the law on urban land use and specific and definitive legislation for preservation of the environment that will assign priority to such areas as Amazonia and Mato Grosso's Pantanal.

But regardless of the ministerial area involved, all the ministries are very active and preparing to take on the Constitutional Assembly as though entering a battlefield on which the executive and legislative branches are going to engage in mortal combat. In this battle for power in the New Republic, attention should be drawn to the remark made by one military man asked what action the parliamentary advisers would take during the Constituent Assembly: "Our tactics are a secret."

11798

CSO: 3342/43

FUNARO DISCUSSES PRICE FREEZE, SALARIES

PY170205 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 16 Dec 86

[Text] Finance Minister Dilson Funaro has said that the government, through the Interministerial Price Evaluation Council, will not analyze the price freeze until 1987. Funaro and his ministerial team are due to meet President Jose Sarney tomorrow. During the meeting, the minister will read a report on the Brazilian economy in 1986 and outline the prospects for 1987.

The minister said that the main issue now is not whether or not to end the price freeze, adding that the government wants to analyze the situation on a case-by-case basis in order to check for any distortions. He stressed that this is a time for everyone to be realistic.

[Begin Funaro recording in progress]...we must be very realistic and we have to...[minister changes sentence pattern] the worst thing to do would be to harbor illusions. We have to be very clear. After 10 months, some sectors and some products are experiencing problems.

No economy can afford to increase salaries and keep prices frozen for long. We realize that there are problems concerning some minor issues, and we have to analyze them. We will see whether we can prevent the deterioration of salaries. [end recording]

Funaro said that talking about the future of the country is more important than arguing about the price freeze.

[Begin Funaro recording] We have to talk at length about our future. Contrary to what happened in Brazil this year, the countries with stable economies reached a kind of accord or understanding in the labor sector. We had 1,200 strikes this year. We raised salaries to their highest possible level, and salaries account for part of costs. Consequently, we have to talk about our future. If we are to have a stable economy, each one of us must cooperate. [end recording]

Concerning salaries, Funaro said that this year salaries were increased by the highest rate ever.

[Begin Funaro recording] An unprecedented salary increase was granted in 1986. We must analyze this very calmly, because some prices have been pushed up by higher salaries. We have to analyze this on a case-by-case basis, without any preconditions. [end recording]

The minister said that everything can run smoothly if there is dialogue with the various sectors, including the workers, because dialogue shows what society wants and what the government is able to do.

/12913

CS0: 3342/51

PCB REVIEWS ELECTORAL DEFEAT, APPOINTS NEW CHIEF

PY200226 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Dec 86 p 4

[Text] The Brazilian Communist Party [PCB] executive board yesterday morning chose journalist Moacir Longo to chair its executive committee until the party convention is held in April 1987. Longo, who was elected councilman for the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) and who was married in 1964, is assuming as interim the position left vacant by Jarbas Holanda, who abandoned the post after the results of the 15 November elections were released. Holanda held himself responsible for the poor performance of the communists in the elections (0.78 percent of the Sao Paulo votes), and he was blamed for having led part of the PCB to support the candidacy of Antonio Ermirio de Moraes. Holanda remains a voting member of the new executive committee, but yesterday he took a leave of absence.

Another change was the departure of former Deputy Alberto Goldman (he was not reelected) from the general secretariat--Regis Frati replaced him. Goldman remains on the executive board but left the executive committee so that he will be able to accept if he is appointed to the secretariat of Sao Paulo Governor-elect Orestes Quercia, whose candidacy he endorsed.

In the internal paper "Allowance for the Discussion of the Electoral Results," which the Sao Paulo communists started to discuss yesterday as a result of the "internal assessment" made by the PCB last weekend, the PCB prefers to describe as a "serious defeat" instead of failure the fact that it was unable to elect even a deputy in Sao Paulo state.

In a crushing "self-criticism," the PCB indicates that one factor in the defeat is "the replacement of rational and cold analysis of our strength by illusions and the longing for the return of the 1945-46 period." The communists also state that they "neglected a number of mistakes as well as claims made by society," and that they failed because they did not manage to remove themselves from the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] umbrella which sheltered them for the past 20 years. "We disdained the administrative methods and indulged in enthusiasm and improvisation. Few organizations have work programs with clear goals and established deadlines." This is why the PCB intends to review its political tactics.

"We consider the PCB a viable party, even in the elections," Longo said. He understands that the PCB must receive the blank votes (23 percent of the

electorate) which he believes represent unhappy sectors that did not find a way to express themselves. Longo added that the communists will contend with all parties, not just the left-wing parties, especially with the PT [Workers' Party], which received 10 percent of the votes on 15 November. He described as "mistaken" the PT proposals because they advocate "the destabilization of the New Republic," which the PCB is precariously supporting. According to Longo, this does not mean unrestricted support for the Quercia government, although the PCB paper describes his election as positive. To emphasize that they do not intend to abandon the electoral struggle, Long guarantees that the PCB is preparing to participate in the 1988 mayoral elections.

/12913

CSO: 3342/51

CNBB PRIORITIZES TOPICS FOR ITAICI CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Nov 86 p 30

[Text] Brasilia—At their meeting this week, the 25 bishops making up the Permanent Council of the CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops] discussed the two items that will receive the most emphasis at the 25th General Assembly of the Episcopate, which is scheduled for next April in Itaici, Sao Paulo. Those items are the active participation which the church has planned for keeping tabs on the National Constituent Assembly and preparations for the Lay Synod that Pope John Paul II will convene in 1987 to discuss greater lay participation in the life of the church. The names of the most popular candidates for chairman of the organization—who will be elected in Itaici—also began to pop up more persistently during the meeting.

Based on the discussions that have started taking place within the CNBB, the most popular candidates for chairman of the organization are the current secretary general, Bishop Luziano Mendes de Almeida, and the deputy chairman, Bishop Benedito Ulchoa Vieira. The front-runner for the post of deputy chairman is the archbishop of Sao Luis, Paulo Ponte, while Celso Queiroz, auxiliary bishop of Sao Paulo, is the leading contender for secretary general.

The bishops feel that the organization's future leadership should not alter substantially the policy pursued by the CNBB over the past 4 years, a policy that has been aimed at greater participation by the church in the communities, including work in the field of political education. Of the 25 bishops on the Permanent Council, 24 voted to make the issue of the Constituent Assembly and the church's role in that process one of the main topics at the upcoming assembly. The church wants to influence the debate on topics it regards as being of fundamental importance in drawing up the new Constitution, examples being education, family, and the social use of property. To that end, it is also prepared to advise those members of the Constituent Assembly who identify with its proposals.

Beginning in December, when a commission will be set up to deal specifically with preparations for the Constituent Assembly, the CNBB will work through its regional bodies to intensify study and dissemination of the document "For a New Constitutional Order," which was approved by the Brazilian bishops at their last meeting in Itaici. In it, the CNBB's bishops argued that the new

Constitution must not fall into the errors of the previous constitutions, which "were either promulgated by constituent assemblies not representative of of the people or imposed by the government with the cooperation of experts."

The question of the role of laypeople in the church will be examined, and a paper on that subject, prepared by the Episcopal Commission on Doctrine on the basis of suggestions being gathered from the regional bodies, will be submitted to the bishops at the general assembly in Itaici. The four Brazilian delegates who will participate in the synod at the Vatican will be elected in Itaici. In an act of self-criticism, the bishops themselves say that so far the church has not made room for laypeople or given them autonomy. They say that the church is still too "episcopal" and that many of the political statements being made today by the organization's leadership should in fact be the responsibility of laypeople.

Another topic that has become customary at the bishops' assemblies is the national sociopolitical situation. Unlike what has happened at other meetings by the Permanent Council, this time the bishops did not make any pronouncement at all on that subject. Advisers to the CNBB admit that the episcopate "is confused" at the situation currently being experienced in the country and that as a result, the topic will be explored more thoroughly between now and April. At their meeting, the bishops preferred to hear a discussion of the Cruzado Plan by Minister of Finance Dilson Funaro and talks by Bishop Candido Padim of Bauru and Deputy Plinio de Arruda Sampaio (Workers Party, Sao Paulo) on the elections of 15 November. In contrast to their response to announcement of the Cruzado Plan, which the CNBB viewed with favor, the bishops have viewed with mistrust and apprehension the corrections recently decided upon by the government. Even the explanations by Minister Funaro did not seem to dispel their fears. Bishop Ivo Lorscheiter said that "it is not the church's business to judge the government's technical measures," but other bishops, such as Moacyr Grecchi of Acre-Purus, were clear: "The minister tried to explain the unexplainable."

In their evaluation of the CNBB's performance over the past 4 years, the bishops say that the organization has come to enjoy strong international influence that is recognized by the other episcopal conferences and that its pastoral work also received direct support from the pope in the letter which the pontiff addressed to the Brazilian bishops last 9 April. In that context, they feel that the CNBB's new leadership should continue to pursue the same policy, although the group most closely identified with liberation theology is supporting the election of Archbishop Serafim Fernandes of Belo Horizonte to be the next chairman of the CNBB. Of the nearly 300 Brazilian bishops entitled to vote in Itaici, 15 percent are strongly identified with liberation theology, which calls for increasingly effective action by the church in its social work and its preference for the poor. A slightly smaller group is represented by the most conservative bishops, and all the rest constitute a majority of moderate bishops situated somewhere between the liberation theologians and the followers of the traditional church.

11798

CSO: 3342/43

BRAZIL

PAZZIANOTTO APPOINTED COORDINATOR OF SOCIAL PACT

PY101642 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] President Sarney yesterday appointed Labor Minister Almir Pazzianotto as the coordinator of the Social Pact. At the end of his meeting with the president, Pazzianotto explained the proposals which will be submitted to union leaders in an attempt to achieve an understanding between the government and Brazilian society.

[Begin Pazzianotto Recording] [in progress] the readjustment of salaries, prices, and public utility rates, the great interest shown by unions to review the rent issue.

We want to review the way in which the Consumer Price Index, IPC, is estimated because we must establish a clear difference between the index that reflects an increase in prices and that which reflects the inflation rate. There are specific items, specific price variations that must not be included in this index.

We are also thinking of establishing a socio-economic council to work with the Labor Ministry.

All of these ideas will be submitted to workers for their discussion. As already reported the president has entrusted me to contact union representatives, labor representatives, state governors, and city councilmen because this is a national project which must include all of Brazilian society, there is no social sector that will be excluded or ignored. [end recording]

The labor minister said that there is nothing new in trying to achieve an understanding with workers and that it is an idea which was upheld by President Tancredo Neves.

Moreover, Pazzianotto assured that some measures, including the readjustment of salaries based on a restricted IPC, may be revised.

[Begin Pazzianotto Recording] But I have been notified that we can eliminate the so-called sappings. Although this is an area that pertains to the Planning Ministry, in my capacity as coordinator of the Social Pact, I will

have to be comprehensively informed on what the Planning Ministry intends to do with the indexes because this is a priority issue which the government wants to discuss with workers.

Although the government has no intention of camouflaging inflation, I reiterate that I am in favor of issuing IPC indexes on a regional basis. The present IPC index is based on the average of the regional IPC indexes. Therefore, we do not have a real national index, what we have is a IPC average. The fact that we are going to work based on the average IPC, that is, the average of regional IPC figures does not really alter the situation.
[end recording]

Pazzianotto said that the government intends to include union organizations in an organized discussion process that will evaluate economic problems which demand immediate solutions.

/12913

CSO: 3342/51

OCTOBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LOWEST OF YEAR

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Dec 86 p 20

[Text] The country's unemployment rate in October stood at 3 percent, the lowest rate this year and also the lowest October figure for the past 5 years, according to an announcement yesterday by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) Foundation. In Sao Paulo, the number of unemployed in relation to the economically active population remained at 2.9 percent, thus showing no change from September of this year, but it was lower than the rate of 4.1 percent recorded in October 1985.

The data are from the monthly employment survey conducted in the metropolitan areas of Recife, Salvador, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Porto Alegre. They include jobseekers 15 years of age or older as a percentage of the total number of persons who are economically active--that is, those employed in a paying job and having a signed work card. With the exception of Sao Paulo, all the metropolitan areas showed a drop in unemployment between September and October (see the table). The continuing expansion in economic activity was responsible for the lower number of jobless in the country's chief sectors of manual employment.

In the six metropolitan areas surveyed, the percentage of persons employed without pay or receiving less than one minimum wage in relation to the number of economically active persons continues to be lower than last year. The average rate for that group in October 1985 was 19 percent, but by last October it had dropped to 15.1 percent, indicating an absorption by the labor

Rate of Open Unemployment, October 1985 and 1986 and September 1986

<u>Metropolitan area</u>	<u>Open Unemployment Rate (%)</u>		
	<u>Oct 1985</u>	<u>Sep 1986</u>	<u>Oct 1986</u>
Recife	6.4	4.0	3.5
Salvador	5.3	4.3	3.9
Belo Horizonte	4.3	3.0	2.4
Rio de Janeiro	3.9	3.3	3.0
Sao Paulo	4.1	2.9	2.9
Porto Alegre	4.3	3.6	2.8
Source: IBGE			

market of independent workers not receiving wages and an increase in the number of wage earners. In Sao Paulo, the percentage dropped from 14.7 percent in 1985 to 10.4 percent in October of this year.

Also increasing in the six metropolitan areas was the number of employees with signed work cards. Their number rose from an average of 56.1 percent in October 1985 to 57.7 percent in the same month of this year. In Sao Paulo, the number of workers with signed work cards rose from 60 percent to 62.4 percent in that same period.

Unemployment also dropped in all sectors of activity in the six metropolitan areas between September and October of this year. Unemployment dropped in the processing industry from 3.1 percent to 3 percent, in the construction industry from 3.3 percent to 2.8 percent, in trade from 3.3 percent to 3.1 percent, and in the service sector from 2.7 percent to 2.5 percent. In Sao Paulo, unemployment rose from 3.1 percent to 3.2 percent in the processing industry, held steady at 2.3 percent in the construction industry, rose from 2.4 percent to 2.9 percent in the trade sector, and dropped from 2.6 percent to 2.3 percent in the service sector.

11798

CSO: 3342/43

FIRST SS-300 MISSILE TEST IN AUGUST 1987; NEW ARMS FIRM

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Nov 86 p 15

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo--The first flight test for the first Brazilian medium-range missile, designated the SS-300 and under development for the past 3 years, has now been scheduled: it will take place in August 1987 before a small number of carefully selected Brazilian and foreign officers. The weapon has already been sold to a country on the Persian Gulf for about \$1.5 million.

So far, AVIBRAS [Aerospace Industry Corporation] has invested only its own funds in the development of this missile, whose integrated inertial navigation system (SIS) was built with domestic technology and approved during tests carried out last month. Currently undergoing testing is the missile's engine, which consists of a section of the main tube that is loaded with solid fuel. The fuel formula is one of the firm's best kept secrets. AVIBRAS is not revealing details of the project; it merely confirms that classified studies exist and that they have been turned over to the head of the Army Ordnance Department.

Beginning in 1987, after the first sales contract is formalized, research and development on the missile will be speeded up because according to military sources in Brasilia, the customer is prepared to invest in that phase. The SS-300 has already passed most of its static tests, and its family of missiles has now been defined for simultaneous development beginning in 1987. Those missiles are the SS-600 and the SS-1000, and they will be ready in the early 1990's.

The SS-300 missile is 12 meters in length and 1 meter in diameter and consists of a single stage, thus representing a further step in the technology of the worldwide arms industry, which is now abandoning two-stage ballistic rockets such as the VLS [Satellite Launch Vehicle], which is being developed by the Aerospace Technology Center [CTA] to place satellites in orbit. The missile has a devastating effect on its target: its warhead carries no fewer than 600 submunitions: self-exploding grenades suitable for antitank and antipersonnel attacks and capable of destroying enemy armament on a large scale.

BRASMISSIL New Arms Firm

Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo--BRASMISSIL is to be the name of Brazil's newest war materiel firm. Its site has not yet been chosen, but it will enter the market with orders from the Army and the Air Force for the manufacture of an antitank and air-to-air missile and with several projects for surface-to-surface weapons.

The latest details on the organization and operation of the new plant were decided on during several meetings between company managers and the director of the CTA, Air Force General Hugo Piva. The new firm's foundations have been decided upon: its leader will be Hugo Piva, and 60 percent of its capital will be controlled by ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc.], with 40 percent being held by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and 20 percent divided among Eska Systems Engineering, ELEBRA, Pirelli, and ABC Systems.

11798

CSO: 3342/43

AERONAUTICS COMPANY TO BUILD FIGHTER JET PARTS

PY162319 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Dec 86 p 2

[By Flavio Nery from the Vale do Paraiba]

[Text] Seventeen years after setting up its aeronautics industry, and now that it has become the 6th world producer of small and medium-sized planes, Brazil will now try to consolidate its aeronautics equipment industry, that is, the group of companies that manufacture spare parts and components.

The AMX binational project is helping to hasten this process and allowing Brazil to acquire state-of-the-art technology, mainly in the field of electronics, a field so far mastered only by the developed countries.

In addition to building 30 percent of the airframe (as part of an agreement signed with Italy in 1980), Brazil will also build 18 percent of the British Rolls Royce motor parts and 30 percent of the 37 computers used in the plane.

Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] Military Programs director Brigadier General Luiz Thomas Carrilho Teixeira Gomes has said that these percentages represent much progress, when compared with the Bandierante, the first plane to be 100-percent Brazilian designed, but which had 4,000 imported parts and components.

Currently, over half of the Bandierante part suppliers are Brazilian, but in the case of the AMX, "the path to nationalization will be shorter," the general said. However, he added: "This does not mean that someday Brazil will want to manufacture all the components of its airplanes, no country does that, not even the United States, which has a formidable industry. The Americans also import some equipment in order to reduce industrial expenses. This is a matter of economics.

Nevertheless, the nationalization of some components does represent some good profits that must not be overlooked. In the case of this subsonic fighter plane, we will save \$300 million. This is possible because the national business sector has at last realized that investing in the aeronautics industry not only brings profits but also allows their industries to expand

into other fields since the state-of-the-art technology that is acquired may be applied to other products.

Partnerships

Gen Carrilho said that in the world of business there are no enemies, just competitors, and that there are no friends, just partners. He gave the example of the British engine that will be used in the Brazilian-Italian aircraft. The Rolls-Royce Company which has the technical knowledge, will build 40 percent, and the Companhia Electromecanica [Electromechanics Company], located in Petropolis, will build 18 percent.

Assembly line production of the AMX by Embraer and its Italian partners, Aermacchi and Aeritalia, will begin in late 1987 or early 1988, at the latest. The first 266 units, have already been ordered and have specific destinations: 187 aircraft will go to the Italian Military Aeronautics (AMI), and 79 will go to the Brazilian Air Force (FAB). This is why in the agreement between the two countries, Brazil will manufacture 30 percent of the airframe--the same percentage of planes that will remain in Brazil. Meanwhile, so that large numbers of these planes do not remain idle during maintenance and repair, 400 motors will be ordered for the 266 planes. Each motor will cost \$1.2 million. The total cost will be \$480 million. After making some calculations, the general said that 18 percent of that amount will remain in Brazil because of the participation by the Companhia Electromecanica.

These figures are more attractive than cautious estimates of the companies. Studies point out that 550 more aircraft will be sold around the world in the next 10 years. The AMX's competitor is the U.S. Douglas A-4 Skyhawk, used by the U.S. Navy, and designed in the late 1950's. Embraer President and Director Ozilio Carlos da Silava said: "it is undeniable that we have the best product, and we will compete in the international market under better conditions than other manufacturers."

The AMX will gradually replace the AT-26 Xavante jets in Brazil as it receives them. The Xavante, which was built under License, has not been built for nearly three years. In Italy the AMX will replace the FIAT G91R and G91Y as well as the U.S. F-104G jets. Gen Carrilho said that the AMX will replace some airplanes that will not be missed, "because there is not a more modern plane being proposed anywhere in the world than this tactical fighter and air-to-surface attack plane."

/12913

CSO: 3342/51

MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO BE SOLD TO JORDAN

PY170016 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Dec 86 p 4

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] Jordan's elite troops, professionals trained for special missions who are responsible for the internal security of the country, are going to be equipped with Brazilian Urutu EE-11 amphibious armored personnel carriers built by Engesa (Specialized Engineers, Inc). The contract, totaling \$50 million, was signed last week in Sao Jose dos Campos during a secret visit to the company's assembly line by a Jordanian military delegation. Company managers did not comment on the matter yesterday, but foreign Ministry officials revealed that the deal might be expanded to include Cascavel EE-9 light tanks and general-purpose trucks.

This operation, in addition to last week's shipment to Saudi Arabia of 1,500 tons of rockets for the Astros II system manufactured by Avibras Aeroespacial [Brazilian Aerospace Enterprise], is the first important result of the national military industry offensive to open new markets in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and South America. In the case of Engesa alone, it means deals amounting to \$450 million.

The Scimitar Regiment specialists have selected an advanced type Urutu but one maintaining the basic characteristics of a personnel carrier (armored, amphibious, 6x6 wheel drive and able to transport up to 15 men). This vehicle can also mount a 20-mm high-speed cannon and a TOW antitank missile launcher, which is already in use by the local Army. The 11-ton basic vehicle is one of the biggest sales successes of the national military industry, and according to the London-based Institute of Strategic Studies, nearly 30 countries use it.

The sale of armored vehicles to Jordan was first discussed in June during a 23 day trip by Engesa directors, to 18 cities in 15 countries on 3 continents. After the first contacts, only the question of payments and lack of financing remained to be discussed. Once these points were resolved, the final stage was "quickly implemented," according to an Itamaraty official. The materiel will be commissioned by the Scimitar Regiment in 1987.

The Jordanian units, trained according to NATO standards, are directly subordinate to King Hussein, who recruits the contingents from the Bedouin

tribes historically linked to his family. The 500 men of each battalion are paratroopers, divers, and specialists in sabotage techniques. Recently they also incorporated into their training routine two kinds of martial arts, and antiterrorist and antiguerrilla operations. At least one of every seven men is a helicopter pilot.

Technically defined as a light infantry corps, they have been utilizing light armored trucks and common jeeps mounted with 76-mm cannon or M-16 machineguns. Three years ago they initiated a reequipment program.

The positive results of the negotiations with the Jordanian Government mark the beginning of a series of international deals in defense materiel, which Engesa initiated over the last few years. The region of southern Africa is an example: Angola is beginning to receive the military trucks that it bought during the first part of the year. According to Angolan Industry and Commerce Minister Ismael Gaspar Martins, "the purchase of the Cascavel-type of armored vehicle is now being discussed." Executive directors of the industry and Brazilian Government officials are negotiating with Egyptian authorities on the implementation of a cooperation agreement that will allow the establishment in Cairo's industrial district of facilities for the partial manufacture, under license, of military equipment. A similar deal has been made regarding the Tucano turbopropeller training plane manufactured by Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], which was bought by the Egyptians and transferred (80 out of a total of 120 units) to Iraq. A similar deal was recently struck with Saudi Arabia.

In addition to strengthening relations with traditional buyers such as Iraq, the Brazilian manufacturers of defense systems are now active in eastern Africa, where Zimbabwe has a fleet of nearly 100 Cascavel light tanks; and Tanzania, whose ground forces are usually supplied by the Soviet Union, is now considering the purchase of arms from Brazil.

In Latin America, Ecuador's Army and Air Force are considering the purchase of new armored vehicles from Engesa, of Tucanos to reequip their training squadrons, and of air-to-ground missiles from Avibras Aeroespacial. In Asia, the Malaysian General staff has announced that it is considering a program to modernize its arsenals.

The Brazilian defense industry presently includes nearly 350 companies directly or indirectly linked to this field, it employs over 100,000 people. In 1985, exports and contracts amounted to \$800 million, but this year's goal of \$1.1 billion may not be met, and even last year's results may not be equaled due to the international economic crisis.

/12913

CSO: 3342/51

BRIEFS

SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA--Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre yesterday stated in Brasilia that the cancellation of the bi-weekly Varig flight linking Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg (South Africa) is not a political question, and that Itamaraty does not interfere in the activities of private enterprises. He admitted, however, that this suggestion has already been conveyed to the enterprise but that "the decision will be made by Varig Company, itself." The foreign minister also dismissed the possibility that Brazil will impose new sanctions on South Africa. As a demonstration of Brazil's position repudiating the Apartheid policy, Sodre recalled that "almost all sanctions have already been imposed. We do not have any trade, sports, or cultural relations. In addition to these sanctions, only a declaration of war is left," Sodre said. According to the foreign minister, Brazil's charge d'affairs in Pretoria is "an observer" and, to make it clear that the cancellation of the Varig flight to South Africa is not a political move, Sodre stated that Varig could fly to Moscow if it wanted. "As long as Moscow permits it. It must also be considered that the existing reciprocity agreement permits Varig to fly wherever it wants. Varig is a private company, an absolutely free enterprise," Sodre concluded. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Dec 86 p 4 PY] /12913

CSO: 3342/51

BARCO'S PERFORMANCE POLL RESULTS RELEASED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Oct 86 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Text] Contrary polls, one by the Consumer firm and the other by the National Consulting Center (CNC), on the performance of President Virgilio Barco during his first 2 months, were released this week, while one of them indicated that unemployment is the priority problem that the administration must solve.

Whereas, in the Consumer poll, 39 percent of those polled think that the Liberal government is progressing well, 44 percent describe it as fair, and 49 percent consider it poor, the results of the poll taken by CNC and the magazine CROMOS indicate that President Barco's performance has been considered positive by 77 percent and negative by 22 percent of those queried.

The Consumer poll notes that 48 percent disapprove of Belisario Bentancur's performance as president, while 43 percent approve of it.

The Consumer poll will be taken periodically, and will be publicized by EL TIEMPO, Caracol, and TV Today.

In contrast to the former, the CNC and CROMOS poll indicates that President Virgilio Barco's performance has been positive in the view of 77 percent, and negative in that of 23 percent.

The opinion expressed in this survey on Barco as president is as follows: positive: 53 percent; negative: 16 percent; no opinion yet: 30 percent.

As for the Barco government, 77 percent claim that it is positive, and 23 percent regard it as negative. His marks as chief executive brought these results: very good, 8 percent; good, 40 percent; fair, 43 percent; and poor, 8 percent. The credibility of the head of state is positive to 66 percent, and negative to 34 percent.

The CNC polled 526 persons in Bogota, Medellin, Cali and Barranquilla between 20 and 25 September. This firm was the one which predicted this year's election results most accurately.

How the Government Is Progressing

The universe of the Consumer poll was comprised of men and women over age 18 from all socioeconomic strata, and it sought the opinion of 1,200 persons in six large urban centers. The margin of error was approximately 3 percent.

Regarding the main problem that President Barco should start solving, those polled answered as follows:

Unemployment, 40 percent; insecurity, 13 percent; peace, 12 percent; cost of living, 9 percent; total poverty, 9 percent; housing, 6 percent; agricultural development, 4 percent; drug trafficking, 4 percent; and others, 3 percent.

To the question: what has the progress of Virgilio Barco's government been to date? 45 percent of those polled answered fair; 31 percent, good; and 3 percent, very good. Those who had a negative opinion, either poor, or very poor, numbered 10 percent. The remaining 11 percent could not describe it. As may be noted, the 45 percent describing it as fair tended to do so with a rather negative connotation, even though it is an intermediate point on the scale.

Based on political affiliation, those interviewed described the government thusly:

Among Liberals, 42 percent identified it as fair; 38 percent, as good; 6 percent, as very good; 5 percent, as poor; and 8 percent did not know.

Among members of New Liberalism, 42 percent described it as fair; 31 percent, as good; 3 percent, as very good; and 7 percent, as poor. Only 1 percent called it very poor, and 16 percent did not know.

The Conservatives depicted the Barco government as fair to the greatest extent, with 53 percent; with 12 percent calling it poor, and 3 percent, very poor.

If the positive, indifferent, and negative figures are summarized, one finds the following:

Liberals: positive, 44 percent; indifferent, 42 percent; negative, 5 percent.

New Liberalism: positive, 34 percent; indifferent, 42 percent; negative, 8 percent.

Conservatives: positive, 20 percent; indifferent, 53 percent; negative, 15 percent.

Left: positive, 9 percent; indifferent, 48 percent; negative, 26 percent.

Other parties: positive, 11 percent; indifferent, 44 percent; negative, 33 percent.

Independents: positive, 31 percent; indifferent, 46 percent; negative, 11 percent.

The rating by sex is divided thusly: 37 percent of men favor the government's performance, and 31 percent of women do so.

Based on socioeconomic strata, the opinions are divided between good and very good, with 41 percent on the upper and upper middle level, 34 percent on the middle level, and 32 percent on the lower level. It is described as fair by 35 percent on the upper and upper middle level, 45 percent on the middle and lower middle level, and 48 percent on the lower level. As for the response poor or very poor, the poll reveals 15, 8, and 9 percent, respectively, on the scale of levels.

Some of those interviewed expressed their positive view of political figures or leaders, while at the same time also backing President Barco's performance. This twofold view is shown as follows:

Receiving a favorable opinion by those who speak positively about the government's performance are: Virgilio Barco (47 percent), Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala (44 percent), Alfonso Lopez Michelsen (42 percent), Carlos Lleras Restrepo (38 percent), Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento (35 percent), Misael Pastrana Borrero (33 percent), Belisario Betancur (32 percent), and Alvaro Gomez Hurtado (32 percent).

To the question as to whether the country is taking a good course of action or a bad course of action, those queried responded as follows:

A good course of action, 21 percent; a bad course of action, 68 percent; don't know, 11 percent. Two out of every 10 persons think that the situation in the country is going well, while seven out of every 10 think that it is going badly.

Those who think that the government is "going well" number 35 percent; "going fairly," 54 percent; and no opinion or don't know, 11 percent. It is thought to be "going fairly" by 17 percent, on a bad course of action, by 72 percent; and no opinion or don't know, 10 percent. A total of 5 percent think that the government is "going badly"; 89 percent think it is on a bad course of action; and 6 percent don't know.

The view relating to the country's progress, based on political affiliation, is as follows:

Liberals: good course of action, 30 percent; bad course of action, 61 percent; don't know or no opinion, 9 percent.

New Liberalism: good course of action, 21 percent; bad course of action, 68 percent; don't know or no opinion, 12 percent.

Conservatives: good course of action, 14 percent; bad course of action, 74 percent; don't know or no opinion, 13 percent.

Left: good course of action, 9 percent; bad course of action, 87 percent; don't know or no opinion, 4 percent.

Other parties: good course of action, 22 percent; bad course of action, 67 percent; don't know or no opinion, 11 percent.

Independents: good course of action, 15 percent; bad course of action, 72 percent; don't know or no opinion, 13 percent.

The most positive position is found among Liberals, whose view is a little more optimistic than that of other parties. On the other hand, the most pessimistic position lies among the left, followed by the Conservatives.

Men are less pessimistic than women. Among the former, a good course of action is claimed by 26 percent; a bad course of action, by 62 percent; and don't know or no opinion, 12 percent. Among women, 17 percent say that it is taking a good course of action; 73 percent claim a bad course of action; and 10 percent have no opinion or don't know.

Betancur's Performance

As for Belisario Betancur's government performance, the poll reveals that 43 percent approve of it, 48 percent disapprove of it, and 9 percent don't know or have no opinion.

The opinion regarding how the Barco government is progressing is as follows: Well, 39 percent approval; 52 percent disapproval; fairly, 44 percent approval, 48 percent disapproval; poorly, 49 percent approval, 46 percent disapproval.

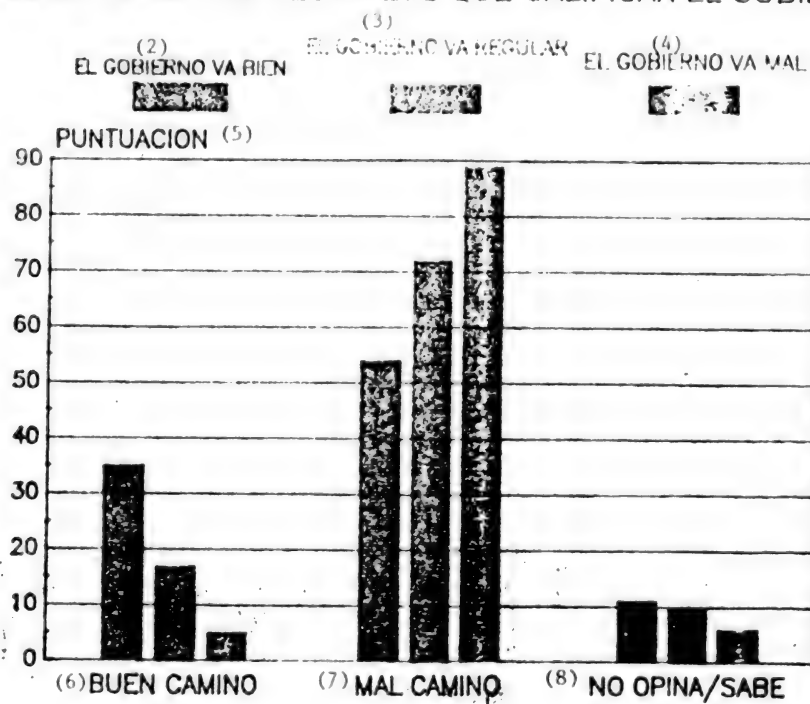
Key to Chart 1:

1. How the country is progressing according to those who rate the government
2. The government is progressing well
3. The government is progressing fairly
4. The government is progressing poorly
5. Points
6. Good course of action
7. Bad course of action
8. No opinion/don't know

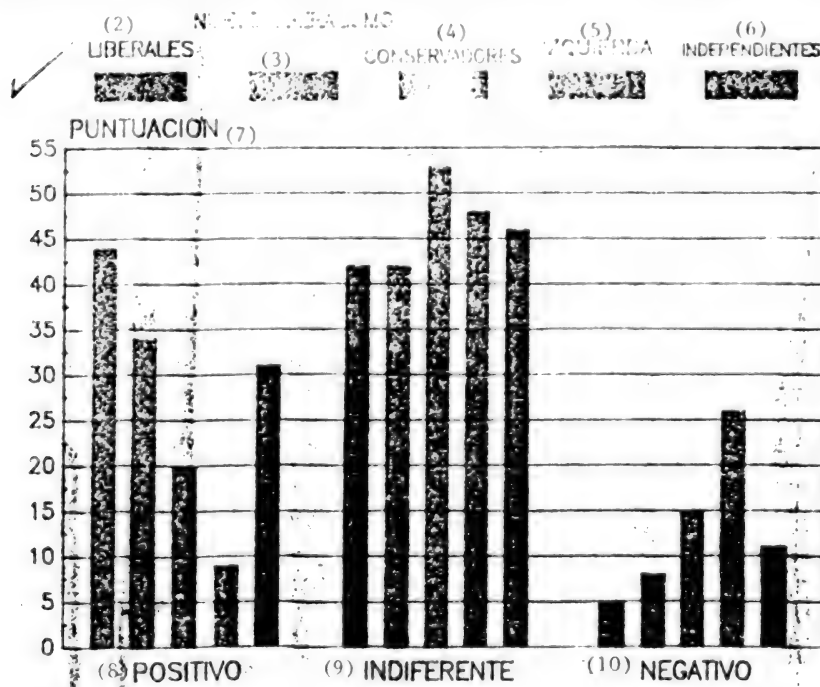
Key to Chart 2:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Positive and negative views based on political affiliation | |
| 2. Liberals | 6. Independents |
| 3. New Liberalism | 7. Points |
| 4. Conservatives | 8. Positive |
| 5. Left | 9. Indifferent |
| | 10. Negative |

(1)
COMO VA EL PAIS SEGUN LOS QUE CALIFICAN EL GOBIERNO



(1)
CONCEPTOS POSITIVOS Y NEGATIVOS POR FILIACION POLITICA



2909

CSO: 3348/101

BARCO ON FREEDOM OF PRESS, ROLE OF JOURNALISM

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 23 Oct 86 pp 1-A, 13-A

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the president of the republic, Virgilio Barco Vargas, gave notice that his administration would respect freedom of speech and foster the reinforcement of the national press, while expressing approval for the elimination of the tax on newsprint, cited by many sectors as responsible for the crisis among several newspapers in recent months.

During the ceremony to open the Fourth Colombian Congress on Advertising in Cartagena, the chief executive was emphatic in stating that he does not want a press that is weakened, restricted, or curtailed "by the sometimes subtle method of creating taxes, obligations, or other types of restraints."

He also expressed opposition to another group of legal regulations which, during recent years, have restricted journalistic activity, such as the requirements for control of political advertising, the free of charge publication of provisions concerning recent disasters, and the compulsory inclusion of decisions of the National Council on Drugs.

The head of state explained: "It is all well and good for these and other actions to be carried out, but on the basis of the civic conviction of the news media, not as a result of a legal imposition."

Free But Responsible

Following is the text of the president's address in which he granted the news media unlimited support:

"Colombia has had a strong journalistic tradition. It is blended with the feat of independence, and there is not a single event in our history that is not connected with this field. And many of our leading figures in the intellectual or political realm have been shaped, and continue to be shaped, in that occupation of collecting and analyzing the history of the present.

"It is not fitting for me to retell this story with which you are quite familiar. But I am picking up the thread of our battles for freedom of speech and for all

the freedoms to establish some criteria for this government regarding the news media and the print media in particular.

"First of all, I must reiterate our confidence in the virtues that free, but responsible, news media have for a democratic system. The pluralistic nature of our society, its diversity of opinion and the variety of perceptions of our reality should be reflected in the structure and content of our verbal and written journalism.

"From the outset, this administration has promoted and, in particular, respected this essential feature of freedom of speech in a free society. There have not been, nor will there be any attempts on our part to curry the favor or the benevolence of the news media. And this position should not be erroneously mistaken for indifference or coldness.

"The municipal, regional, national, specialized, large and small press are part of the democratic features of Colombia. And we do not want it to undergo discreditation; we do not want to see it weakened.

"Although it is acknowledged that all of us (government, private sector, news media, and citizens) are living in a time of shortages and even non-liquidity, many agree in stating that the 8 percent tax introduced by Law 80 of 1984 has been one of the factors contributing to the insolvency of the regional newspapers.

"This administration does not favor the restrictive system that has been set up during recent years for journalistic activity. The Statute on Political Parties (Law 58 of 1985) and Decree 2738 of the same year regulating it, have imposed questionable controls on political advertising 90 days before the electoral activities.

"Decree-Law 3822 of 1985, in turn, has forced the different news media, and the print media with national circulation most especially, to publish free of charge certain sections of the provisions declaring the victims of the Palace of Justice holocaust and the Ruiz Volcano disaster legally dead.

"Finally, Law 30 of 1986 has intensified this restrictive process, imposing the requirement on the press to make publications subject to the criteria and guidelines of the National Council on Drugs. It is all well and good for these and other actions to be carried out, but on the basis of the civic conviction of the news media, not as a result of a legal imposition.

"This government, which has not sought nor enjoyed a period of grace, declares that it does not approve of the interference in the name of a misinterpreted state interventionism that has been affecting what should be a very free activity; interference that, moreover, could be laying the groundwork for far more serious and dangerous intervention. Therefore, we prefer a legislation which, in the light of the realities of our time, will develop the principles of freedom and responsibility established by our Political Constitution.

"Respect for truth about events and freedom to comment, and respect for the honor and privacy of individuals, as well as balance in reporting, are some of the principles inspiring the conduct of the print media. The right to respond as well as the notion of equal time are being required in media such as television and radio broadcasting. And there must continue the opportunity to reach agreements in special instances such as those related to the publication of terrorist acts or those affecting national security or jeopardizing the right to life.

"The associations that legitimately represent the activities associated with the media in all their varieties must participate actively in devising ground rules that will preserve the necessary balance between the freedom, responsibility, and right of the citizenry to be informed well, and in a timely, suitable manner.

"A first dimension concerns the media's relations with the jurisdictional branch. An effective, impartial, and autonomous justice system is an unavoidable foundation for social coexistence and public peace.

"The factors which curtail, limit, or assault the independence or autonomy of judges and the rights of the citizens associated with processes that are under way are a real disturbance to the efficacy of the justice system. It is not legitimate to all press activity to corner judges, intimidate the justice system, convict out of court, interfere with investigations, or assault citizens' rights, in a desire for information and greed for first position.

"The strengthening of institutions to which the government is committed places the Congress of the Republic in the center of policy decisions. To accomplish this, its nature as a driving force of controversy and also of solutions for the nation's problems must be restored to it. The Congress democratically reflects the plurality of concepts, aspirations, and ideologies that typify the nation, and hence it has a civilizing effect on controversy, disagreement, and conflict. Unfortunately, there has not been a fair assessment of the congress members' debate and endeavor in the context of public information.

"It would be an example of good sense and responsibility to the country if the informational professionals would, on their own initiative, hold a debate on these topics.

"I wanted to be present at this congress, because it seemed appropriate for me to reaffirm the thinking of the administration that I head in the area of freedom of speech. Since this is a government with Liberal inspiration, no one should be surprised that ours is a position different from that of other political movements, precisely for that reason, because it is Liberal.

"It has been said that the people exercise the power of censorship over governments. This government holds that view. The rights to hold opinion, to think, to analyze, and to publish are all sacred rights. And they are exercised essentially by guaranteeing the existence, and fostering the reinforcement of media which are as responsible as they are free."

2909

CS0: 3348/101

NEW LIBERAL GROUP FOUNDED TO PROMOTE PARTY UNITY

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Oct 86 p 3-A

[Text] A new Liberal group, which will seek unity of the movement on both the local and national level, has been founded by council member Santiago Salah Arguello, who left the movement directed by Rafael Forero Fetecua, also a council member.

According to a statement released yesterday, the new group "will foster the party's agglutination to hold ideological forums that will make it possible to publicize the Liberal doctrine, making it possible to keep the promises that Dr Barco made during his election campaigns to achieve a party government based on the proposition of change, radically opposed to the retrogressive proposals devised by the Conservative Party."

In the statement on the creation of the Liberal Union Movement, council member Salah expressed his concern over the deepening of the Liberal division in Bogota and all over the country, noting that, at a time when the Conservatives are becoming united around a position that is growing stronger every day, "the Liberal Party is making its division more severe, owing to insignificant problems, including bureaucratic splits."

He added that the policy should be in the service of supreme interests and, for this reason, he had backed in the council the proposal of Mayor Julio Cesar Sanchez to procure financing in order to carry out programs for the benefit of the underprivileged classes.

He announced that in both the council and on the public squares, he would act as an independent spokesman and a soldier of Liberal unity, claiming that he hopes to submit his name in the next elections on tickets resulting from the union.

He concluded by saying that his movement is "a channel of opinion toward the future, to ensure that the strong, united Liberal movement will not lose its historic destiny."

Thus far in the capital council sessions, this is the second division of a political group. The first one was led by former Congreeman Fernando Sanclemente Molina and council member Alvaro Pava.

2909

CSO: 3348/101

PLANS TO PROMOTE PRISONER EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

Medellin EL COLOMBIANO in Spanish 23 Oct 86 p 3-A

[Text] Bogota (COLPRENSA)--Yesterday, the Chamber's Foreign Relations Commission and the Attorney General's Office proposed to Congress and the government the promotion of the signing of an international treaty on prisoner exchanges that would be binding on those countries in which Colombians have been tortured and harassed.

The instrument would be supplemented by legal mechanisms that would enable the diplomatic agents to review the status of the criminal proceedings opened against nationals abroad, as a means of overseeing their procedural guarantees.

The proposals emerged from the Chamber's Second Commission during a debate held by the Atlantico Liberal congressman, Emilio Lebolo Castellanos, on torture and mistreatment of Colombians in Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama.

Lebolo Castellanos based his charges on violation of international order and human rights, with testimony submitted to the congressional group by the victims themselves, allowed to speak when the session was declared informal.

The testimony, described by those in attendance as "unvarnished and horrifying," served as the basis for the one summoning and delegated prosecutor for the Public Ministry, Fernando Navas Talero, to put forth his proposal on the signing of the international treaty.

The Proposal

The proposal will be analyzed during the second session of the debate (scheduled for next Wednesday) by Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes, prosecutor Carlos Mauro Hoyos, and the chief of the Administrative Department of Security, DAS, Miguel Maza Marquez, who did not go so far as to intervene.

The analysis of the situation being experienced by nearly 50,000 Colombian prisoners abroad, and the abuses committed against tourists visiting those three countries, also gave rise to serious objections made to the attitude of the diplomatic agents as defenders of the rights of nationals abroad.

Congressmen Samuel Alberto Escruceria and Pilar Villegas de Hoyos, and several of the witnesses summoned, urged the government to prepare a diplomatic career service whose members would not be "the usual beneficiaries of compensation for political reasons."

The promoter of the debate, at the same time, questioned the role played by the embassies and consular delegations in Mexico and Venezuela, and claimed that Colombians are not only mistreated by the police forces and corrupt officials of those countries, but also by their own country's diplomatic agents.

Simultaneously, he charged the presence of administrative chaos at the Colombian Consulate in Caracas, and disclosed, based on documents from the Attorney General's Office and the Foreign Ministry, the illegal charging for services, shortages in bank accounts, and graft, based on appropriation of the money collected for the issuance of documents.

The session was attended by the journalist, Patricia Lara, who reiterated her complaints regarding circumstances surrounding her expulsion from the United States, and described some instances of Colombians who remain ostracized in that country's jails.

2909

CSO: 3348/101

ICJ SUIT SPARKS CONTROVERSY OVER CONTADORA SUPPORT

Arias Chides Contadoras

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 6 Nov 86 p 4-A

[Excerpt] The Costa Rican government is considering the possibility of not attending future meetings of the Contadora Group, so long as there is no "energetic reaction" by that organization to Nicaragua's suit filed with the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Holland.

Costa Rica's president, Dr Oscar Arias Sanchez, made this statement yesterday. He said that his administration is quite annoyed with the attitudes of Venezuela, Mexico, Panama, and Colombia (Contadora members) and their support group, as they have issued no statements regarding their position on this matter.

Meanwhile, the chief executive of Honduras, engineer Jose Azcona Hoyo, upon arriving in Costa Rica yesterday for a private visit lasting approximately 20 hours, announced that his country has already decided not to attend further meetings until Nicaragua drops its charges.

"The accusation made in The Hague is an insult to the Contadora Group. They should react to it; they have not done so, and we are not very happy about that," said the Costa Rican chief of state during a press conference held in the Diplomatic Salon of the Juan Santamaria Airport, in the company of Azcona Hoyo.

The minister of foreign relations, attorney Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, said that the Nicaraguan charge about the alleged complicity of Costa Rica and Honduras with anti-Sandinistas "disqualifies" the Contadora Group as peace negotiators in Central America, at a time when they have been trying to promote a dialogue.

He further stated that the Sandinistas, in taking that position, are ignoring the efforts that Contadora has been making, and they are bringing that process to a halt by such a lawsuit.

"We can not continue to take part in a dialogue (in the Contadora meetings) when the other side is preparing a lawsuit in order to discuss the charges that Nicaragua wants to make in another forum," stated the Costa Rican foreign minister.

He maintained that Costa Rica has still not decided whether it will attend the next meeting convened by the negotiating group, stating that a position on this will be decided when the meeting is scheduled.

Government Case 'Strong'

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 11 Nov 86 p 4-A

[Text] Costa Rica has "very solid" grounds for its defense against the suit Nicaragua has filed with the International Court of Justice, the Uruguayan jurist, Dr Eduardo Jimenez de Arechaga, stated yesterday upon arriving in Costa Rica. He has been hired as an adviser to the government for this case.

He was met at the Juan Santamaria Airport by members of the Costa Rican jurists committee. This committee is preparing Costa Rica's defense strategy against the suit being filed by the Managua government, alleging complicity with anti-Sandinista groups.

Dr Jimenez de Arechaga said that the Costa Rican position is strong. In a ruling issued by the Court last June about Nicaragua's charge against the United States, it "was found that there had been incursions by the Sandinistas (into Costa Rica) across the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica."

He further stated that a number of investigations by outside organizations, including the OAS, have shown that the Sandinista government "has committed violations of international law."

Today Dr Jimenez de Arechaga will meet with the group of Costa Rican attorneys to discuss the plans prepared to date to rebut Nicaragua's charges; he will also make some suggestions, he explained.

Costa Rica's judicial agent responsible for this case, attorney Edgar Ugalde, said yesterday that this case could cost from \$3 to \$5 million. So far the Legislative Assembly has only approved funding of 10 million colons for Costa Rica's defense.

According to Dr Jimenez de Arechaga, that amount is "exaggerated." He suggested that not too many foreign advisers be hired, for that "is not always the best course to follow." He felt that two attorneys will be sufficient.

Editorial Chastizes Arias

San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish 29 Aug - 4 Sep 86 p 4

[Text] The reactions of President Arias and his foreign minister to the suit filed by Nicaragua in the International Court of Justice are not very constructive, and certainly will not help to foster the essential climate of detente which both Costa Rica and the entire Central American region long for.

Not only have the Nicaraguan leaders acted with justice in defending their national sovereignty and even the physical integrity of their citizens; they have also responded in a civilized manner, by seeking to resolve such a sensitive issue, not through violence and force, but rather by turning to a court created for this purpose, one which enjoys high international prestige, the Court in The Hague.

Nicaragua's charge, which also involves Honduras, is based on the fact that gangs of counterrevolutionaries have been operating in both Honduras and Costa Rica, with the knowledge and compliance of the two respective governments, and from these countries they organize their aggressive activities against Nicaragua, which are primarily directed against civilians, places of employment, and even schools.

Not even the most fanatic enemies of the Sandinista Revolution would dare to deny that armed groups of contras have found refuge in both Honduras and Costa Rica.

Just a few days ago a former Cuban now living in the United States, the owner of a vehicle in which some grenades were found, stated without hesitation that for a number of years he had directed the training of contra groups, conducted by Cuban-American soldiers from Miami, at a farm located in Guanacaste. These statements were received without much reaction by top government officials, who were not even interested in learning more about these military activities from this foreigner. They simply asked him to leave the country.

For quite some time, the U.S. national John Hull has been named as a major CIA agent in Costa Rica. Contra camps have been discovered on his properties. This individual has also been accused of serving as a link with gangs of drug traffickers. But despite the gravity of the allegations and the facts which have been proven against him, no government officials have been interested in interrogating this foreigner.

Everyone knows that the contras have camps, public places, and safehouses here in Costa Rica. Precisely because of this, there is well justified concern about the fact that as soon as the \$10 million in military aid sent

by Reagan begins to arrive, the contras are going to escalate their activities, with the consequent dangers to our citizens and our national tranquility.

Given this situation, the attitudes of the president and of his foreign minister are incomprehensible, to say the least, because reality and the validity of Nicaragua's charges call for more rational, calm, and responsible behavior.

If they are convinced of Costa Rica's innocence, as Arias and Madrigal claim, let them prove it in the Court in The Hague. For the course of verbal aggression and even insults which these two government officials have been pursuing, backed up by the unsavory chorus of Gonzalo Facio and Fernando Volio, is making no contribution at all to detente or to seeking an appropriate climate for resolving differences.

Arias has been hurling insults at the Sandinista leaders, disrespectfully calling them "the heirs of Somozism"; in speaking to a group of U.S. congressmen, he whined that Costa Rica "is the only democracy in the world which has borders with communism, and we are without an army," in this way trying to increase the alms that Reagan has approved for the Central American "democracies."

In addition to all this, the Costa Rican government has announced that it is accepting the U.S. government's proposal to send a new contingent of so-called military engineers in early 1987.

By pursuing this course, the government is endangering the peace of the Costa Rican people and is isolating itself more and more from the nations and peoples of the world who desire detente and self-determination for the countries of Central America.

7679

CSO: 3248/117

BRIEFS

RAMIRO VALDES, OTHERS DECORATED--Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the party's Central Committee and minister of the FAR, has presided over a ceremony to decorate leaders of the revolution. Also present at the ceremony held at the FAR's Universal Hall, were other members of the Politburo and party leaders, as well as generals and other FAR officers. Flavio Bravo Pardo, member of the Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, received the Playa Giron Order in recognition of his revolutionary work and his role in building socialism in Cuba. Commanders of the revolution Ramiro Valdes and Guillermo Garcia Frias, Faure Chomon, Sergio del Valle, and Colonel Enrique Luzon received the liberation war combatant order, first and second class, and the 30th FAR anniversary commemorative medal for their outstanding participation in our struggle. Other prominent combatants, party and government leaders, and FAR generals and officers were awarded the Ernesto Che Guevara Order and the Ignacio Agramonte medal, first, second, and third class, for their contribution to defensive tasks. They all received the 30th FAR anniversary commemorative medal as part of the activities marking the historic date. [Text] [Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Nov 86] /9599

CSO: 3248/112

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS RESULTS OF TRIP ABROAD

PA091411 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Edgar Teran reported to the press the activities that he carried out to the benefit of the country during his tour of Israel, Yugoslavia, and Egypt. Teran stressed that he discussed both bilateral and multilateral problems, including that of the Nonaligned Movement, which he believes must be maintained within its original philosophy of not playing the game of the superpowers and instead maintain an independent position and sovereign relations among all states.

[Begin Teran recording] We discussed bilateral relations with each of these nations and we also discussed the multilateral problems in which we have common interests and aspirations. Such is the case of our relationship with the nonaligned countries. This was discussed at length with the governments of Yugoslavia and Egypt, which have similar views and policies. I can sum up such a policy by stating that it is the desire to have the Nonaligned Movement maintain its original philosophy; in other words, that there be real nonalignment. It is a position that does not seek to be part of the game of the so-called superpowers. Instead, it is an independent position with sovereign relations among all states.

Regarding bilateral relations with Israel, we have agreed on the arrival of an Israeli trade mission that during the first quarter of 1987 will study the Ecuadoran market and the investment possibilities here. In addition, there will also be Israeli technical assistance, especially (?for the use) of underground waters in Manabi Province, the irrigation of which is of special interest to the government. [end recording]

/9599

CS0: 3348/130

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH SCORED--Andres Vallejo, president of the National Congress, has stated that capitalization of the foreign debt is a very delicate and important matter that must be handled correctly, delicately, and responsibly. Mr Vallejo said that there is no conflict among the branches of the state, but the executive branch is disregarding the other state institutions. [Begin Vallejo recording] I don't believe there is a conflict between the executive and legislative branches. I believe there is a truce. But in the past 10 yaers the country has seen an executive branch that is constantly against everything. There is no executive-legislative conflict. The executive branch simply ignores whatever it does not like and this is its attitude toward the legislative and judicial branches as well as toward universities, municipal councils, and provincial councils. So if you view this as a conflict, then I would say it is a conflict with everybody. [end recording] [Excerpts] [Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Dec 86] /9599

NEW OIL WELLS PLANNED--After its successful explorations in Block 7, British Petroleum will increase its investment in the Amazon region, according to Rodrigo Ceron, national director of hydrocarbons [title as heard]. The British company will devote the funds to the exploitation of 2 additional wells. As may be remembered, Payamino 1 started to produce 10,000 barrels per day, and its proven reserve is 30 million barrels. Rodrigo Ceron stated also that for 1987 the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corp. will devote over \$14 million to drilling 3 oil wells. [Excerpt] [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Dec 86] /9599

CSO: 3348/130

SEAGA ACCUSES OPPOSITION OF LINKS WITH DRUG DEALERS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA yesterday accused the People's National Party of having links with "ganja barons" who he said were fast becoming deeply involved in the political system of the country.

Addressing the annual conference of the Jamaica Labour Party at the National Arena Mr. Seaga said that six persons suspected of trafficking ganja have been served notices to pay income tax on the basis of their earnings.

He said: "There are new strategies to deal with the ganja barons themselves. Four out of the top ten are now behind bars awaiting trial without bail. And in the last two weeks, six of them have been served with notices of assessments from the Income Tax Department to the value of many millions of dollars."

He said that the six summonses had been lying idle for up to one year. He had been told that the men could not be found.

"I called the Police High Command and I gave them the six addresses and I said, 'serve them in one week.' They were found, and they were served and they are going to court and the assessments are for millions and millions of

dollars.

"We cannot have a country in which people throw garbage anywhere they want; in which people sell goods anywhere they want; in which people import goods illegally as much as they want; and, in which ganja barons do whatever they want whenever they want: This damn foolishness must stop."

Mr. Seaga said that the abuse of drugs including ganja and cocaine was penetrating right throughout the society and he accused the PNP of having links with the "ganja barons" through the "Green Growers Association":

"If we are not careful we are going to wake up one day and find that Jamaica has become another drug republic of which there are many in this vicinity which we know about.

"We can't allow that to happen and we are not going to allow that to happen and, ladies and gentlemen, I am telling you today that as far as ganja and dangerous drugs are concerned, we are at war.

The PNP had better decide which side they are on. I don't want them to talk about cocaine alone. When Manley was on this very platform in September he spoke about drugs but never mentioned one word about ganja.

"I don't want him to come now and tell me that they agree with the policy that ganja is a dangerous thing to the economy to welfare and to the physical welfare of the body, while on the other hand whispering to the ganja man that, 'sometimes, you know, I just have to say that but, you know, I am going to look the other way if I get into power.'

"I don't want them to tell me one thing and tell the ganja man something else, because every meeting that they have we know.

"They formed an association called the Green Growers Association and that Green Growers Association is linked up with them now in this campaign of ganja apology. They have to find a way to get out of that before they can convince this government that they are se-

rious and sincere, and that they are not prepared to talk out of one side of their mouths about cocaine and on the other side wink off the ganja man and say we going free you up."

He said that despite their financial support and the fact that the PNP did not have to do anything controversial, that party could only increase its votes in the recent Local Government elections by 5,000 over 1980.

There was a lot more to be said on that matter, but he was neither ready nor able to do so now, because much of what else could be said was deeply involved in the brutal slaying of three policemen at the Olympic Gardens station recently, Mr. Seaga said.

"I don't need to tell you that they (ganja barons) are fast becoming deeply involved in the political system of the country. All of you

know it, you suffered from it in July.

"Government is well aware that there are many people at the level of small farmers that are dependent upon the ganja dollar, but we have to take decisions that have to do with the welfare of the entire country, and not the welfare of any number of persons who constitute a subsection of the country.

"If any of you were in the same position that we are in you would have to take the same decisions, because you couldn't watch the country's tourism being reduced: who would feed the families of the waiters and the taxi drivers? Who is going to feed the families of all the people working through the system?

"I want to give you warning today that the Government is not going to stand idly by and watch a few ganja barons wreck the country."

/7358

CSO: 3298/067

ANOTHER PLANE SEIZED IN U.S. FOR SMUGGLED MARIJUANA

Opposition Party's Reaction

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Dec 86 pp 5, 28

[Text]

KINGSTON, Dec. 8, Cana—THE OPPOSITION demanded today a "total shake-up" of security at Air Jamaica and the island's ports, as the Government and the State-owned airline smarted over the seizure of two of the company's 'planes by US Customs, last weekend, for smuggling marijuana.

In a joint statement, People's National Party (PNP) spokesmen on national security, K.D Knight, and Public Utilities and Transport, Bobby Pickersgill, said it was extremely worrying that no one had ever been charged in connection with marijuana found aboard Air Jamaica, which they said suggested "that persons in high places are involved and are being protected".

"All the evidence suggests and points to some highly-placed Government officials," the PNP declared.

Millions In Fines

Neither Public Utilities and Transport Minister, Parnell Charles, who has responsibility of Air Jamaica, as well as the ports, nor any of the airline's top executives was immediately available for comment on the PNP charges.

On Friday, an Air Jamaica 727 aircraft was held at Miami Airport with 162 pounds of marijuana, stuffed in two mail bags, and on Saturday night, the company's embarrassment was compounded when a Boeing 747 plane leased from the Irish airline, Aer Lingus, was seized by US Customs for 130 pounds of

the drug found in two cartons.

Air Jamaica has been slapped with fines totalling (US) \$2.2 million (J \$12.1 million), which the airline says it is unable to pay.

The Government has been using diplomatic and other official channels in its bid to have the 'planes released.

It was the third time this year that Air Jamaica 'planes have been seized in the USA for marijuana, though it has been fined on several occasions for drugs.

Last week, Transport Minister Charles disclosed that between January and August, the airline had been fined a total of (US) \$116,000.

Last year, it was fined (US) \$13 million, but in most cases fines were reduced drastically, after negotiations between Air Jamaica and the Jamaica Government and US authorities.

Jamaica is reputed to be the third largest marijuana supplier to the United States, and Charles and other Government officials have been warning that the smuggling was threatening to ground the 17-year-old Air Jamaica and divert ships from the island's ports.

In fact, on the latest haul on the docks, 4,000 pounds of marijuana (locally called ganja) was found in containers ready for shipment from Kingston.

Charles has promised "the highest in-

vestigation," saying it would focus on whether someone wanted "to pull Air Jamaica out of the skies, damage the tourist industry, or destroy the Government for political reasons, or whether it is purely an illegal drug operation."

In a bid to deepen the anti-drug drive, Police have begun to search 'planes, passengers and luggage going aboard Air Jamaica, supplementing the airline's and the Airport Authority's security systems.

However, Charles' statement and the latest measures have not impressed the PNP, which the Government has recently been linking to marijuana smugglers.

The PNP spokesmen questioned how many persons could have put mail bags on an Air Jamaica 'plane, as was the case with the Saturday seizure, or marijuana in cement bags, as was the case earlier this year, when a ship from Kingston landed in Newark, New Jersey.

To back its demand for a "a new approach to security" and a full public inquiry into the issue, the party officials also pointed to the recent stealing of an impounded light aircraft from Montego Bay's Donald Sangster Airport.

They said security at the ports should be the function of the regular security forces, fully-equipped to detect narcotics.

Such measures had been only partially implemented, the PNP spokesmen said, while Minister Charles had refused to yield to their demands to remove a highly-placed member of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) from his contract to handle Air Jamaica luggage, even though the person was known to have had convictions in the USA for drug-trafficking.

Airline Official's Comment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

KINGSTON, Dec. 8, Cana—AIR JAMAICA was expecting its Boeing 747 aircraft, seized in New York on Saturday night for marijuana-trafficking, to be released today and an American citizen arrested for the offence, according to the airline's chairman, Tony Hart.

However, Hart conceded that negotiations for the freeing of a second Air Jamaica 'plane, a 727 seized at Miami Airport on Friday, with 162 pounds of marijuana stuffed in two mailbags, were proving more difficult.

"We have great hope that the New York 'plane will be released today," Hart told Cana in a telephone interview.

"We feel we have identified the carrier of the ganja (marijuana). The person checked and flew up with us and we have passed on all the information to the authorities and the Police in New York," he said.

Hart said the person identified was an American citizen.

"We expect there will be arrests in this case," he added, noting opposition People's National Party (PNP) charges that no one had ever been arrested in connection with marijuana found

aboard Air Jamaica 'planes.

Two cartons with 130 pounds of marijuana were found aboard the 'plane, when it landed at New York's Kennedy Airport, but Hart said he felt that Air Jamaica negotiators in New York had been able to satisfy US Customs that the airline was not at fault.

"We feel that the blame doesn't lie with Air Jamaica. We took our precautions," he said.

Air Jamaica was fined about (US) \$1.2 million for release of the 'plane, but if its arguments hold, it might have to pay only a small fraction of that.

In the Miami incident, Air Jamaica is having a more difficult time proving that someone outside the airline's system was able to smuggle two mail bags onto the 'plane.

Definite Infiltration

The 'plane left from Montego Bay, the north coast city, from where the authorities here say they do not ship letters.

"This was definitely infiltration of the airline," Hart said.

The fine for the Miami haul was more than \$1 million.

Up to August, Air Jamaica had been fined a total of \$116,000 for marijuana found aboard its 'planes, Transport Minister Pearnel Charles disclosed last week.

In 1985, the State-owned airline was fined (US)\$13 million, but had to pay only (US)\$100,000 because of negotiations.

Hart supported calls for a shake-up of security at Jamaica's air and seaports, and said Air Jamaica had beefed up its own security.

/7358

CS0: 3298/067

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVE RULING JLP, OPPOSITION PNP

JLP Election Preparations

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Nov 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

AT least ten Members of Parliament will not be seeking re-election in the next General Elections, the **Gleaner** understands. The Jamaica Labour Party has also hammered out an 18-month strategy aimed at strengthening the Party for elections.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga who is also Party Leader will unveil the plan, which has been labelled 'A Major Constituency Work Programme Islandwide', at the Party's annual conference this weekend.

The Party has not yet completed its exercise of determining the exact number of MPs who will give up their seats as it is still awaiting reports from individual constituencies.

The MP's to go are: Mr. Anthony Golding (South West St. Catherine); Princess Lawes; (North West St.

Anni); Mr. Len Kirby (North East Manchester); Mr. Anthony Abrahams (East Kingston); Mr. E.K. Powell (North East St. Catherine); Mr. Gerald Tucker (East Portland); Mr. Dudley McKinley (South West Clarendon); Mr. Buxton Cooke (West Westmoreland); and Mr. Audley Woodhouse (North West St. Catherine).

Mr. Howard Wedemire (South East Westmoreland) who resigned earlier this year over Party differences will be replaced by Mr. Ruddy Spencer, a senior officer of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union.

Mr. Karl Rhoden (West Central St. James) will not be returning because of ill-health, party sources said. According to other sources, the Party is not too clear as to what Dr. Mavis Gilmour (West Rural St. Andrew)

will do. She is reported to have indicated earlier this year that she would not be returning.

Sources said this week that the Party was to have made a decision on the retiring MPs last week Monday, but the Prime Minister was off the island. The Party's Executive was to have confirmed on Monday the numbers to go.

But reports are that no decision has yet been made on the replacement of some of the out-going MPs. Party informants claim that some of the MPs would be leaving for health reasons while others have different private reasons.

Constituency officers have been working on their recommendations for replacements which will be submitted to the Secretariat next

week. Sources say that certain individuals have been working in constituencies to assume caretakership.

Mr. Everrod Williams, former Mayor of Spanish Town, is active in East Central St. Catherine while the incumbent, the Hon. Anthony Johnson has started visiting North East St. Catherine, where Mr. E.K. Powell is the sitting member. In East Kingston, Mr. Cadien Head has been appointed caretaker and Mr. Dennis Wright, a BITU officer, has been 'shadowing' Mr. Gerald Tucker in East Portland.

"The old days are gone. aspirants have to win the confidence of the people before they can become candidates. This is why it has taken so long for decisions to be made," a Party source said.

The Party's 18-month strategy, one source says, is aimed at bringing people back in line to deal with the problems at the constituency level. "This is a programme of activity each MP will be obliged to follow," the source said, adding that the plan would be taken on the road after Party conference.

PNP Foreign Affairs Spokesman

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Nov 86 p 35

[Text] THE National Executive Council of the People's National Party has unanimously endorsed the appointment of Mr. David Coore as its spokesman for Foreign Affairs and welcomed his return to active politics.

A PNP release said the NEC's endorsement last Sunday took into account Mr. Coore's service as Minister of Finance during what was a period of "unprecedented turbulence" in the international economy.

The NEC also took note of the fact that Mr. Coore had never resigned as a member of the PNP, and had made himself available from time to time to officers of the Party for advice and help on various political and other issues, the release said.

The NEC, it said, noted that Mr. Coore had informed Mr. Michael Manley, President, that he would be returning to Jamaica permanently in 1987, and had indicated his willingness to serve the Party in any capacity and at any level required.

According to the release, the NEC recognised the wide-ranging experience and international contacts and associations developed by Mr. Coore which made him a suitable person to hold the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs in a PNP Government.

Mr. Coore's appointment was made in the context of the assignment of the portfolio of Planning, Production and Development to Mr. P.J. Patterson, a critical Ministry in a PNP Government, the release said.

Manley on JLP 'Caretakers'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 86 p 26

[Text]

GOVERNMENT is providing money to Jamaica Labour Party caretakers in Eastern Kingston and Port Royal and South East Westmoreland to spend in these constituencies although they have no status in law, according to President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley.

Speaking specifically of the East Kingston Constituency, Mr. Manley said that 1,700 persons or about 18.8 percent of the constituency's population voted for the JLP and over 7,300 or over 81 percent for the PNP in the July 29 Local Government Elections.

"So the person who has no legal status, is not a MP, is not a councillor, did not run as a councillor, speaks on behalf of 18.8 per cent of the people of the area, looks at 81.2 per cent of the people who have elected two councillors, and all the money for Eastern Kingston is being spent by that caretaker," Mr. Manley said.

Declared Mr. Manley, who is the PNP Constituency Representative for the area: "This is wrong in law, it is madness in politics and it is unacceptable in ethics."

Delivering the keynote address to the 58th Conference of the Association of Local Government Authori-

ties (ALGA) at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston on Wednesday, Mr. Manley said he had officially written to the authorities about the matter, pointing out that it was "absolute madness and totally unacceptable."

"I only hope that I will get a sensible reply, because I would not accept it (otherwise)," Mr. Manley said, adding that he was not prepared to look at the over 81 percent of the people and say they did not exist by "someone else's fiat."

On Local Government, Mr. Manley said he was very worried about the course of events and he did not wish Local Government to become the scene of tension and difficulty.

He could not ask Government to reverse its philosophy about Local Government and "whether we want to dismantle it in the name of efficiency ...if a philosophical decision has to be taken, one has to resolve that."

But that would have had to be resolved in a general election "where we will have to campaign on a platform and the people will have to decide," the PNP President said.

"Looking at this group and saying there is no money is inviting a collision. The business of giving MPs the money to give out and ignoring

"We will not accept that and you (the councillors) should not accept that and St. Thomas (the sole JLP controlled council) should not accept that, nobody should accept that."

Mr. Manley said there was room for argument and debate about whether the country was in straitened circumstances and therefore funds were limited. "I can see all the scope in the world for honourable and legitimate discussion and argument which presumably could be worked out in a spirit of goodwill."

"But the statement there is no money is unacceptable and I say on behalf of all that I represent in Jamaica, we will not accept that answer," Mr. Manley said.

He said that although they were told the July 29 Election was a "mockery" there was money for Members of Parliament to spend.

"There are some MPs in law who are spending money right now. I know that as a fact that in the areas they are spending, the councillors elected are being told they can have none."

Of the MPs that had money, there were some talking to their councillors about how to work out

councillors for whatever the money should be spent, is not the point," Mr. Manley said.

"The point is, to have the money to spend while you disregard the democratic wishes of the Jamaican people; that is not acceptable" and "if that continue we are on a collision course."

Disagreeing with what was being done with Local Government, Mr. Manley said that rather than saying that Local Government was inefficient and therefore must be emasculated and virtually destroyed, it should be developed positively as it was close to the people and could be the vital breeding ground and preparation ground for the national political system.

What was being done was short-sighted and bad for Jamaica. However, the PNP was working towards a positive programme of development for Local Government should they form the next government.

Government was wrong in saying there was no money for Local Government purposes. "You are asking Jamaica to go on a collision course by doing that," Mr. Manley said, declaring:

some arrangements amongst themselves as to how the money should be spent.

But there were other MPs, Mr. Manley went on, who had money but were telling their councillors that they will not even talk. Also, there were MPs approached by councillors who claimed that although other MPs had money to spend, they had none.

The PNP president charged that to the extent that some claimed they had no money and others claimed they did, "if that is correct, that is internal victimization." He further charged that to the extent that some were talking and others refused even though they had money "is internal inconsistency." With internal discrimination and internal inconsistency, "you have a totally unacceptable situation," he said.

JLP Reorganization

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 30 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Edward Seaga, unanimously re-elected Leader of the Jamaica Labour Party yesterday, told the private session of the party's annual conference that Deputy Prime Minister Hugh Shearer will share more responsibility in Government to lighten his own workload.

This development paves the way for major re-organisational plans to be implemented to enable the JLP machinery to have the necessary strength needed in the time left for General Elections.

The four deputy leaders are to take on additional duties and different areas of responsibility as a team to work along with Party Chairman, the Hon. Bruce Golding, leader of the organisational thrust.

According to a JLP release, Mr. Seaga told 7,000 delegates that Members of Parliament would be undertaking a wide range of activities within their constituencies for which they would be accountable to the Party.

A feature of yesterday's election was the nomination of Mrs. Joan Webley as Deputy Leader, but she later withdrew from the elections.

Mr. Seaga also explained to the delegates he had withdrawn his decision not to seek re-election in October "because of the support and confidence demonstrated by the people.

The Prime Minister said he would be undertaking a programme of visits, accompanied by relevant Ministers and technical teams, one week-end in every month to a major town outside the Corporate Area to deal with major problems being experienced in those townships.

He would also tour rural areas on two occasions in each month, he said, while Ministers were to give one day per week to rural touring with Members of Parliament.

In Jamaica's system of Government, the Party Leader and Prime Minister posts were both combined, making it difficult for any one person to carry out both responsibilities effectively, he said. The release said that the Deputy Prime Minister would share more

responsibilities on the Government side to lighten his load.

Also addressing the delegates was Mr. Shearer who called on them to make the truth known and to help in keeping the people informed in their constituencies about Government programmes.

The release said Mr. Shearer refuted as "unadulterated nonsense" and ignorance, criticisms that the Government was an uncaring Government.

Mr. Shearer listed many government programmes for the benefit of the poor, and said that the Government had reduced taxes and relieved the indigent and poor from paying taxes. The Government, he said, was doing more with less revenue from bauxite, than the PNP did.

The four deputy leaders re-elected en bloc were: The Hon. Pearnel Charles, the Hon. Percy Broderick, the Hon. Enid Bennett and the Hon. Neville Lewis.

/7358

CSO: 3298/067

COLUMNIST CARL STRONE DISCUSSES GUN VIOLENCE SITUATION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Nov 86 p 8

[Carl Stone Column]

[Text]

The recent multiple murders of policemen at the Olympic Gardens police station have reminded the country of the ever present danger of the highly organised gunmen in our midst.

I find it quite amazing how much this country has been lulled into a false sense of complacency, over the threat of gun violence merely because there has been a decline in the extreme levels of violence that occurred here in the 1970s.

It had to take the brutal slaying of these three policemen to remind us that the threat of the organised criminal terrorist has not exactly gone away. The high powered weapons are out there in abundance. The gangs have regrouped, changing their line of business from political gunmanship to drugs. Killings have continued at a very high rate. Far more violent crime is occurring than is being reported to the police because of fear and the sense of futility that it is a waste of time.

A reminder

Last week's events are a reminder of the many incidents of politically motivated mass killings that took place in the 1970s. At that time those in power blamed it on the CIA. The opposition identified its roots as linked to Cuba and communism. The

more insightful recognised that it was the cumulative effect of widened access to high powered weapons combined with drug use by gunmen and a new kind of viciousness that expressed the alienation towards the society being felt by aggressive ghetto youth. Party politics was just a convenient avenue for expression of these destructive forces.

It opened up a chapter towards anarchy in this country. But then the change of government ushered in a new and more stable political situation. The police were beefed up with more vehicles, weapons and support and the special squads were re-organised to re-establish control in the streets.

Illusion of peace

The illusion of peace was created because some gunmen migrated, others disconnected from political violence, and the political gang wars went on leave. Some gunmen got into lucrative coke and ganja dealings and some were simply wiped out by police or other gunmen.

But let's face it. We had several years of continuous urban political warfare here that left in its wake urban gangs with training, weapons, leadership, community support and a courage born of experience in the battlefield.

Ganja dealings and the large and lucrative coke transshipment business have given them renewed access to resources and renewed stocks of high powered weapons.

Ganja dealings

Some of the more deadly gunmen have links with the US retail market in drugs in New York and other big cities where they have been tough enough to muscle in on this very rough and competitive business. Like some of our businessmen who have one foot in Florida and one foot here, we now have a breed of international terrorists who commute between Jamaica and the USA. They have money and are mobile which makes it doubly difficult to catch them. They are ruthless and trained professional killers who regard most of our police as being push overs. They are fearless and considerably more intelligent than the average cop.

But we seem to have an enormous capacity to deal with today's problems based on yesterday's maladies and prescriptions. Our former Minister of National Security Mr. Winston Spaulding kept reminding us about this terrorist threat. But because he seemed unable to spell out the problem without reference to Cuba and Cuban guerrilla training

which many knew to be a thing of the past, nobody took him seriously. The fact is that the terrorists of the seventies have re-grouped into new modes of activity while the government has continued to look for them under beds of the PNP and the communists.

Irrelevant

Whatever were, are or may be their political affiliations are now quite irrelevant to their present *modus operandi* as political bosses no longer have any control over most of them. They are a law unto themselves. They neither fear nor respect police or politician. Some are extremely dangerous because they sniff coke and will murder wantonly, while others are clinically professional and only kill when they have to.

Last week's episode is just a small lesson in how effective these gunmen can be if they put their minds to

terrorising the society.

The country does not have the kind of security alert and preparedness to deal with these gunmen if they were ever to mount a sustained campaign of terrorist violence.

A number of seemingly unconnected incidents (murders, robberies, rapes) have been happening around town to suggest that some very heavy gunmen were on the loose again.

Not vigilant enough

The security forces have not been vigilant enough in tracking down and eliminating these elements. It has taken the slaying of three policemen to trigger the kind of security blitz (in known haunts where these people hang out) that should have been mounted long ago.

But the police are disgruntled and demotivated. They put their lives on the line daily but because of a few bad eggs who are a discredit to the force, they find themselves under attack from human rights bleeding hearts, political opportunists and some misinformed, articulate opinion makers. Many are fed up with a society that gives them a basket to carry water in terms of the tools

provided for controlling the ever rising tide of crime and criticises them for not being effective. What has hurt them very much is that much of the criticisms of the police come from the privileged who benefit most from their work and who are able to hire security guards to protect themselves.

Excesses of indiscipline, corruption, lawlessness and abuse of power there are in our police force but the mass media and most of those who have anything to say about the police, have demotivated our good policemen by concentrating mainly on the bad and ignoring the good.

Tragic loss but...

The death of the policemen is a tragic loss that has saddened us all but like some painful losses it has brought some good. Coming immediately after the destructive attack on the police by Americas Watch and misguided human rights activists, the tragedy has mobilised both national and local community opinion behind the police. It has served to remind us that the threat of anarchy and terrorist violence must be higher on the agenda of national concerns than the issues which the Americas Watch exaggerated out of proportion.

In the view of some policemen

and many who support them, the coincidence of this massacre at Olympic Gardens and the recent spate of attacks on police, on the one hand, and the public battering of the police which the Americas Watch Report occasioned is not entirely accidental. The shooting of policemen was encouraged by these criticisms.

Biased attacks on police

As I have said in at least three columns, these unbalanced and biased attacks on the police encourage

gunmen to believe that they can carry out reprisals against the police and get away with it in the context of sharp public criticisms of the police which were being published and promoted by powerful interests in the establishment.

To deal with petty crime we need the friendly cop on the beat who relates closely to the community. But the harsh fact is that the friendly cop cannot deal with the criminal terrorist. To deal with that level of criminal we have had to establish special squads made up of killers who have to be as violent as the gunmen. But when the security forces do that bleeding heart liberals complain that we are creating a police state.

But the social conditions breeding the terrorist will increase not decline in the future. If we are to contain this threat of violence, our security forces have to develop a more substantial para-military character to give it a more deadly strike force against the serious gunmen.

Choice

The straight choice is between capitulating to the criminal terrorist or supporting more para-military forms of law enforcement. That was the harsh message of the violence of the 1970s and the Olympic Gardens massacre is just another reminder of the choice that has to be made.

The anarchy of Lebanon could easily happen here if the gangs of criminal gunmen find some way of uniting under central leadership or if they ever are provoked into a sustained programme of violence in this country.

The link between the gun and drugs will grow rather than decline in the future. It is a deadly combination that could make the Olympic Gardens massacre look like a Sunday School picnic if these forces ever develop and are ever fully unleashed on this small and ill-prepared country.

AGREEMENT ON TEXTILE MILL OPERATION SIGNED WITH CHINA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 86 p 27

[Text]

AN agreement between Jamaica and China to commence operations at the Old Harbour Textile Mill in St. Catherine will be signed sometime next week, according to Mr. Wang Jim Lin, head of a six-man technical team from China here to discuss and investigate the operations of the plant.

Mr. Jim Lin, who is also deputy director of Shanghai Textile Industry Bureau, in Hong Kong, said that after the spinning and weaving operations commence at the mill there will be "many other opportunities" to benefit Jamaica.

He was speaking yesterday at a luncheon hosted for the team by the Hon. Douglas Vaz, Minister Without Portfolio in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, at Terra Nova Hotel in Kingston.

Noting that profits from the spinning and weaving operations were "not very high," he said other manufacturing ventures had to be established "so that there will be much profits."

Mr. Jim Lin praised Mr. Vaz for the "great attention" he paid to the planned reopening of the textile mill. However, he said, it must be understood that "Jamaica's industry policy is not sufficient."

He added that when the project was ready for implementation "we expect good support and strong guidelines" from the JNIP, the JNEC and Government departments. Mr. Jim Lin stressed that the decision by his country to operate the mill in Jamaica "was not an easy job."

/7358

CSO: 3298/067

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES INQUIRY INTO SUGAR CONCERNS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Nov 86 p 3

[Text]

A THREE-MAN Commission of Inquiry to look into a number of matters which are of particular concern to both cane farmers and sugar manufacturers, has been appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Percival Broderick. The announcement came at the start of the 1987 sugar crop, which got underway at Frome in Westmoreland, yesterday.

Two of those named to the Commission are Mr. Brian Young of Price, Waterhouse and Company; and Mr. Reginald Price of the Queensland Cane Growers Council of Australia. Mr. Young has been nominated by the Sugar Manufacturing Corporation of Jamaica to represent the interests of manufacturers and Mr. Price has been nominated by the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers' Association to represent the interests of the growers.

Appointment of the third member of the Commission — who will be chairman — is to be announced shortly, said Dr. Broderick.

The areas to be investigated by the Commission, include:

a) the claim by cane farmers that a balance of some \$12.4 million from the trading surplus on imported sugar during the 1983/84 crop should be paid to the industry;

b) the cost of growing and processing cane and make recommenda-

tions on the proportion in which the net returns from cane and its approved by-products should be shared between cane farmers and sugar manufacturers;

c) the proposal that all sugar factories should pay the same percentage of the revenues from cane and its approved by-products to the farmers;

d) the claim by cane farmers that the value of bagasse produced in the sugar factories should form part of the revenues of the industry and determine whether any other products or by-products should be so examined; and

e) whether any other aspect of the present arrangements for making payment to cane farmers, including subsidies, should be examined.

Dr. Broderick said that other issues such as the minimum acceptable quality of cane supplied to the factories and the minimum acceptable level of efficiency by the factories would also be referred to the Commission.

The Minister also gave the undertaking that the new Board for the Sugar Industry Authority would be announced early next year and would be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry.

/7358

CSO: 3298/067

BRIEFS

SENATE MINISTERIAL CHANGE--Kingston, 1 Dec--Jamaican Senator Hugh Dawes was today sworn-in as minister of state for education, after the constitution was amended to facilitate the appointment. Dawes was among five full ministers and ministers of state named when Prime Minister Edward Seaga reshuffled his cabinet nearly two months ago, but could not take up the appointment because the constitution at that time allowed the naming of only four ministers from the Senate. Under the constitutional change, the ceiling on the number of ministers from the Senate was raised, though only four can be named to the cabinet. The constitutional change required two-thirds majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as it did not require changing an entrenched clause. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2046 GMT 1 Dec 86 FL] /7358

CSO: 3298/067

LACK OF CRITICISM IN JOURNALISM NOTED

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18, 19 Nov 86

[Article by Eduardo Estrada M.; first two paragraphs are introduction]

[18 Nov 86 p 2]

[Text] The article below does not discuss whether censorship is valid or not; it addresses the effects it has on reporters in this revolutionary process.

A young journalist, who like many others is opposed to such censorship, analyzes the pressures of self-censorship among the people covering the news today.

Any thoughts on Nicaraguan journalism must start with the process of change that Nicaraguan society is undergoing. In addition, they must take into account the element that is acting against such changes and that influences news reporting. I am talking about U.S. aggression against Nicaragua on all levels, mainly political, ideological and military.

These two facts will help us better understand the press censorship that has existed in the country since 1982, when political and military pressure intensified.

My experience and the experience of which many colleagues have told me is that in spite of the restraints it imposes, censorship is not a decisive obstacle in journalism. Isn't this contradictory? Yet the practice of journalism seems to tell us that the problem is deeper and more complex.

Censorship does not prevent active, critical journalism. The explanation is that censorship aims mainly at the sort of news that could help destabilize the revolution.

The problem is that it is often difficult for journalists working for the revolution to distinguish between what should and should not be censored. We thus come to an important point: self-censorship among journalists.

To an extent, censorship has reinforced self-censorship, which is a more serious problem than censorship itself but which can be overcome. It bears

clarifying that in Nicaragua there is freedom for opposition journalism, but within the civic framework. Self-censorship is a Nicaraguan phenomenon, the danger being that reporting will increasingly restrict itself to official news that does not make waves.

One of the restraints that self-censorship imposes is lack of criticism. Six years have passed since the triumph of the revolution, and Nicaraguan journalism's meager spirit of criticism is still a barrier to communication between the State and the people.

Some have justified the phenomenon by citing journalists' enthusiasm about and commitment to the revolution. Others contend that newsmen are afraid to criticize because they believe that by finding fault with a government body or mass organization, they are lapsing into reactionary or counterrevolutionary positions.

Journalistic criticism is a complex trade that is learned, as we can see from the few examples of criticism that are to be found in the country (La Voz de Nicaragua's "Contacto 6:20, and EL NUEVO DIARIO's column "Watching, Listening...and Not Keeping Quiet," etc).

In general, two types of criticism have developed: criticism of U.S. policy and of the system it represents (capitalism) and criticism of the domestic political parties or organizations that support the interests of their social class and of the White House. The latter is, without doubt, the better developed.

Criticism of the revolutionary process itself, of the State and of the political organizations that support it is the most problematic and arouses the least enthusiasm among our colleagues.

As far as opposition sectors are concerned, we must distinguish between the criticism that is voiced within the framework of the revolution and the criticism that aims at discrediting and undermining it. This is, in fact, no longer criticism; it is confrontation that is in keeping with well-defined outside political interests, as is the case with the paper LA PRENSA.

The development of critical journalism now depends on journalists.

Criticism of the revolution and the State is more like self-criticism. Our attachment to the revolutionary process often inhibits us. There is also the argument that not all criticism can be made public because it puts weapons in the hands of the enemy. This could be just an excuse, because what is covered up usually comes to light in a distorted manner in society through what we Nicaraguans call "bolas" (rumors).

In my opinion, there are three reasons why we journalists in general lack a spirit of criticism: talent, cultural limitations and fear.

A survey that the National Union of Journalists (UPN) conducted in 1983 among 120 of its members revealed that only 35 or 40 percent of them had finished

secondary school, are attending college or had completed their higher education.

Another factor is the sort of training that has been given to the graduates of a school that only in recent years has begun a process of change whose results are yet to be seen.

An American style of journalism used to predominate, though it had been poorly assimilated, emphasizing heroism, craziness, major accidents, awful disasters..in a word, yellow journalism and sensationalism.

This sort of journalism has entered a crisis.

[19 Nov 86 p 2]

[Text] No to Mechanical Journalism

Journalism school graduates have been characterized by a divorce between theory (if they ever learned it) and practice. And the nongraduates are the ones who, as almost everywhere in the world, have gotten the big scoops. For the most part, they are the most prominent journalists. But this is no reason for them to rest on their laurels, because they need more professional training, the lack of which leads to distortions, such as seeing journalists as mere mouthpieces for ideologies or ideological agents.

Accepting this definition of a journalist is tantamount to saying that we are just reporters, not active participants in keeping the public informed. But let's get back to the topic of cultural background. For the most part, journalists are lacking in methods and techniques of social investigation, which leads to problems in their general theoretical, not just political background. How can we criticize the government's economic programs if we do not have a grounding in that science? The same thing is the case with social problems, so much so that in a feature article on juvenile delinquency reporters merely interview a series of officials and professionals and then publish those interviews. They do not elaborate, nor do they investigate the problem; if they did, they would become active participants in news coverage.

The same goes for political and international issues, as well as for more specific problems such as supplies, schooling, the government's performance, problems between unions, etc. The major challenge facing Nicaraguan journalism today is specialization, in which just the first few steps are being taken.

The development of an active journalism that can also create new knowledge, no matter how scant, means the development of every category of journalism. Our press has neglected these categories: news items, investigative reports, feature articles and interviews, as well as columns and commentaries, etc. Their development, however, will depend on our professionalization, along with the formation of a clear-cut profile whose principle is the active involvement of journalists in covering the news

We can now move on to the problems involved in the fear of criticizing. I do not think that this problem is new; it is as old as revolution. It is not at all easy to voice criticism or to practice critical journalism during a transition period that is marked by the polarization and contradiction of domestic social classes, especially when the criticism is aimed at the State, the masses and the relationship between the State and civilian society alike. More than one official could assert his authority to intimidate journalists, which is something that several colleagues have personally experienced. This problem is easier to solve when the role of journalists is more clearly defined and there are mechanisms for protecting them. But there is another sort of fear, and it has to do with self-censorship, the fear of being branded a reactionary or a contra or at least a "deviant." This can be overcome if we further define our role.

One colleague once tried to reduce the problems of journalism to what he called "bureaucratic journalism." He said that what he meant was that journalists should just cover official acts and downplay the efforts of the mass organizations and of the people in general. His one-sided approach led him to the conclusion that a journalism of the masses must be developed further. He disregarded the underlying issues of Nicaraguan journalism, whose hallmark throughout history has been its combativeness.

I replied to his suggestions that it would be more accurate to say that journalism has been "bureaucratized" by the formulators of working guidelines, by the government officials who have sought to subordinate journalism to their discourse and by the those mass media directors who have been unable to counter the strong tendency of government officials to turn journalists into mere mouthpieces of the news that they furnish.

We should thus not speak of a journalism of the masses in the abstract; we should practice the sort of journalism that reflects the interaction and contradictions of the State and civilian society in its various forms, especially in a revolutionary process whose main pillars are political pluralism, a mixed economy and nonalignment.

The goal of our efforts at communication is to fight to debureaucratize the news that comes from government institutions and mass or union organizations. First of all, we must have access to the news, without having to wait for it, so that we can report it, analyze it and compare it with the facts. We have to report all possible news about the State, but let us also report the grievances of the people and the contradictions that arise between civilian society and the State.

High-level Sandinist leaders, such as Commander Victor Tirado Lopez, a member of the Sandinist Front's National Directorate, have criticized the sort of journalism that he described as "journalism for an audience of staunch believers." Journalism for an audience of staunch believers has entered a credibility crisis. Social and political contradictions themselves have blown it to smithereens.

Because of our society's political pluralism, revolutionary journalism is up against another sort of journalism, the one that identifies with U.S. policy, and therefore cannot hesitate in moving forward.

This is the great challenge facing journalism during this transition stage. Resolving the problems of professionalization is a long-range goal. For the time being, however, we must stress that we will succeed in developing a comprehensive journalism to the extent that we link theory and practice, more clearly define our profile, reject the role of mere mouthpieces or agents of an ideology and become the creators of new knowledge or opinions on our society's problems by offering answers to today's problems and establishing ties with professionals in other sciences and with the people themselves.

One of the positive aspects that we can emphasize in our development as journalists is that we have started to become aware of our problems as a trade union. We have entered the stage of self-criticism and have begun to come up with ways of meeting needs, including specialization, to which the UPN is now devoting attention.

In spite of everything, a vigorous journalism with a scientific groundwork is taking shape, an active, autonomous journalism. If we become careless, the alternative is passive, mouthpiece journalism. That will not happen. For our own good and for the good of the revolution.

8473

CS0: 3248/127

SANDINIST RADIO, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION QUESTIONED

Radio Sandino Audience Loss

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] Nine years after the famous tag line "This is Radio Sandino..." was heard for the first time from somewhere in Nicaragua, the workers at the station, whose enthusiasm spurred the people to join in the uprising, are trying to regain the combativeness of old.

According to the surveys that Radio Sandino reporters have conducted in recent days among various segments of the population, many people are not listening to its programs, newscasts excepted.

"As a journalist I am pleased that people listen to our news programs, but it worries me that they turn off their radios or turn the dial because they don't like the rest of our programing," remarked Marta Monge, who is of the opinion that the "Voice of the Revolution" ought to be number one in overall listenership, just as its news programs are.

Why has Radio Sandino seen its influence decline after capturing the top spots in listenership during the years after the triumph?

"Programing has to be popular and not segmented, as it is at present," Marta went on to say. In her judgment, programmers and management ought to give some thought to program changes.

According to the host of "Extra," the station has the finest radio resources and "is not taking advantage of them."

Nevertheless, its director, Rodolfo Tapia Molina, argued that in line with the station's profile, its programing is segmented because it is "a party radio station" whose newscasts convey the policies of the Sandinist Front so that the people make them their own.

It also plays an educational role, with spots left over for tango, rock, jazz and miscellaneous music, among other kinds. As far as Tapia Molina is concerned, Radio Sandino's mission is not to be number one in audience; rather, "we want to be number one in the consciousness of our listeners."

The director of Radio Sandino feels that the station's best program is "Audio Debate." What about the worst? "We have no worst program," he replied flatly. He then revealed that "Los Cachorros" [The Cubs], "Por los Caminos de Ayer" [Along Yesterday's Roads], "Los 50 Minutos de la Juventud" [The 50 Minutes of Youth] and "El Tronco de los Mensajeros" [The Messengers' Trunk Line] are the programs that receive the most mail from listeners.

Radio Sandino, which tomorrow celebrates 9 years on the air, has gone through several stages. Immediately after the triumph, the people who worked at the clandestine station began broadcasting from the ABC studios at the Channel 2 facilities.

Ten days later they moved into the current offices on Tiscapa Boulevard, where they began with a broadcast room and a newsroom. Little by little the station expanded and added new programs, from testimonial music, newscasts, sports, soap operas, "Linea Directa" [Direct Line], "Apretando la Tuerca" [Tightening the Screw] and "El Tren de las Seis" [The 6 O'Clock Train] to the current sector-oriented programing.

"We feel that this sort of programing is the way to reach certain sectors," stated Humberto Lopez, one of the station's founders.

The "Voice of the Revolution" employs about 180 people, including newsmen, announcers, actors and administrative staff, and has three repeaters.

Radio Sandino has been asking for its listeners' opinions and will surely make changes in its programing. Patricia Orozco, the station's assistant director, thinks that the station should aim at "getting the revolution's message across to the people."

Like Tapia Molina, Patricia indicated that "we are not competing with anyone; we are after sectors so that the Sandinist Front's message gets across." She acknowledged, however, that to offer educational and cultural programing, "we first have to have an audience."

Radio Sandino is also trying to report on and explain the factors that lead up to a given event, she explained, adding that the station wants to reach a large listenership with clear-cut, well-analyzed facts.

"Our goal should be for people to trust what the station reports or reveals," she said, adding that as the station receives criticism, "we are going to improve."

Ministers 'Humiliate' Journalists

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 17 Nov 86 pp 1, 12

[Text] In their daily rush to cover the news in Nicaragua reporters are accustomed to dealing with people who are kind enough to make their work easier (the majority), people who are indifferent to them, people who hamper the task of social communication and even people who enjoy thwarting them.

Our experience has shown that the state offices of information or public relations or international relations or whatever title each ministry has decided to pin on the barrier separating it from reporters, have in many cases ceased to be useful tools that facilitate news coverage.

Covering government activities is often a serious problems for reporters. At times, a visit to one of these information offices is quite an ordeal.

So that our readers judge for themselves, EL NUEVO DIARIO herewith summarizes what it went through last week.

One of our reporters seeking information on "street children who are mistreated by their parents" went to the Minors Protection Center at kilometer 7 south to interview psychologist Marta Blandino.

Having received the request from the reporter, the CPF answered through an intermediary. The reporter was told that he could not be given any information unless he had a letter from the Information and Press Office of the Central INSSBI.

The reporter went to that office of the Central INSSBI to request just such a letter. He learned, however, that Guadalupe, the information officer, was not around. The receptionist asked the representative of EL NUEVO DIARIO what he wanted and, upon being informed of the purpose of his visit, referred him to a psychologist in the office of the Minors Protection Center.

He headed back to the Minors Protection Center. On arriving, the psychologist told him that he was very busy and referred him to Rosario Diaz, the chief of psychological evaluation of minors, but she was not in her office.

The newsman continued his trek in search of information and revisited the same psychologist, who then referred him to psychologists Berta Rosa Guerra or Maria Felicita. Comrade Maria Felicita, however, referred him to a social worker, who gave him no information and wasted his valuable time.

Another EL NUEVO DIARIO reporter had a similar experience at the Information Office of the MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] on Tuesday 11 November. The newsman showed up for the appointment on time, but the official in question could not see him because he was in a meeting. Their interview was rescheduled for 1600 hours that same day. When the reporter showed up again, the official this time was with press representatives of the Sandinist Television System. Apparently, officials would rather appear on TV soap operas than in the papers.

The same EL NUEVO DIARIO reporter requested an interview with another MICOIN official for information on a tortilla plant that is supposed to be built in Managua. After several days of making arrangements, he was told that the office knows nothing about the project, which is still on the drawing board.

The same thing happened at the firm PETRONIC. An EL NUEVO DIARIO staff reporter spent 2 days there trying to get an official to tell him about the plans to set up a new propane distribution company.

The ordeals continued for EL NUEVO DIARIO reporters on 12 November. Once again a newsman asked the information office of TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services], which has two reporters and a secretary, for an interview with Col Leopoldo Rivas so that he could report on the case of the 700 missing phones.

Another member of the EL NUEVO DIARIO staff had the same experience when he asked to see someone at INCINE's film distribution enterprise (ENDIDIEC) but was referred to the Information Office. The date of the appointment has come and gone, and he has still not gotten an answer from the enterprise in question.

The list of difficulties confronting our reporters is endless. The next problem was with the MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform] Information Office. On Wednesday 12 November an EL NUEVO DIARIO reporter went to the Managua office to see the list of new milk prices. He was told that they did not have such a list. Meanwhile, the milk was already being sold at the Roberto Huembes Market.

We wanted information on the next coffee harvest and were referred to the information bulletin. When we insisted, they said that it was not part of their job.

On Wednesday the 12th and Thursday the 13th one of our reporters went to the Information Office of the Interior Ministry (MINT) and asked Lt Oscar Merlo and 2nd Lt Mario Sanchez for an interview with the appropriate official because he wanted details about an organized gang of criminals that was operating in Managua. He has so far received no answer to his request. More bureaucratic red tape is involved in arranging an interview in the MINT than in requesting a loan in any bank, which is saying a lot.

Some press offices in government bodies are extremely uncooperative. For example, many of our reporters feel at this point that visiting the Central Bank or the Finance Ministry in search of news for the people is a waste of time.

Another of our newsmen visited the El Sol Plaza Police Complex on Wednesday 12 November to obtain information on the disappearance of a woman that one of her relatives reported at EL NUEVO DIARIO.

The reporter arrived and spoke with the soldiers who were at the gate; they told him that they would call in the man in charge of the cases that the Sandinist Police is investigating. Shortly thereafter they put him in touch with Cristian Munguia, the officer's secretary. He explained the matter to her and was told in response that her boss could not see him because he was in a meeting and, moreover, that reports of missing persons were not his province.

These are just some of cases in which we have gotten the runaround, not all of them. Far from it.

Someone ought to step in and do something. Regular news cannot have become a state secret. Information officers are there to make the work of newsmen easier, not to hamper it. Ministers and other officials have a duty to report on their activities and to respond to the concerns of the people and the media.

There are ministers who not only refuse to give an account of their activities to the people but also mistreat and humiliate newsmen.

The Information Ministry was supposedly created to supervise government news releases. If it has, in fact, discharged that function, the practical results are nowhere to be seen.

President Daniel Ortega and other leaders have made many appeals for efficiency on the job. They have also called for broader news coverage and better perspectives from the media.

If information offices do their job efficiently, we too will be able to report efficiently on government activities.

8743

CSO: 3248/126

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

PRELIMINARY EXPORT FIGURES--During his last news conference of the year, Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca offered reporters preliminary information regarding our exports and their effect on our economy next year. Minister Martinez Cuenca said Nicaragua will export 950,000 quintals of cotton that will bring into the country \$36.7 million; 120,000 quintals of sesame seeds, \$5.2 million; and 850,000 quintals of coffee, \$154 million. Nicaragua will export 20 million pounds of beef worth \$16.4 million; 2 million quintals of sugar worth \$13 million; 5.5 million boses of bananas worth \$17.6 million; and 4,226,000 pounds of seafood worth \$19.7 million. [Excerpts] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Dec 86 p 5 PA] /12232

EEC, RED CROSS, NETHERLANDS DONATIONS--The following contributions arrived today at Corinto Port: 72,000 bags of powdered milk from the EEC, 4,400 bags of powdered milk from the International Red Cross to the Nicaraguan Red Cross, and 18,600 bags of red beans from the Netherlands Government. [Text] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Dec 86 PA] /12232

CSO: 3248/129

MILITARY REFUSES TO SUPPLY ITEMIZED BUDGET FIGURES

PA141919 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Flor Quintero]

[Text] Although Panama is experiencing an acute economic, fiscal, and financial crisis, the Defense Forces of Panama [FDP] are managing to increase their 1987 budget by \$600,000. According to information secured by LA PRENSA from legislative sources, their budget has been finally set at \$104.6 million.

A meeting of a commission reviewing the FDP budget, which lasted from 0900 to 1330 [date not given] was held behind closed doors. The media were denied access to Legislative Assembly buildings.

The meeting, which was held, as in previous years, in the Legislative Assembly's Blue Room, was attended by Colonels Roberto Diaz Herrera and Marcos Justines, who acted as FDP spokesmen; and approximately 40 other officers, including majors and lieutenants.

According to our sources, the military institution argued about the need to raise troop wages, for which they need approximately \$2 million.

Our sources added that yesterday's meeting to discuss the budget was "the most bitter because the military refused to provide details."

Christian Democratic Legislator Guillermo Cochez proposed a decrease in the FDP fuel allowance because it is excessive and being used for political purposes. As an example, he pointed to the 12 August rally.

In reply to this, chief of staff Col Roberto Diaz Herrera, said that "FDP funds could be used to defend the nation against U.S. press slanders."

Our informants agreed that Col Diaz Herrera "responded sarcastically, especially when questioned by Legislator Antonio Arias of the Authentic Panamanian Party. [quotation marks as published]

As in previous years, the budget assigned to that institution shows increased investments.

The FDP is among the institutions receiving the largest budgets within the general budget of the nation.

Unlike the past 2 years, a breakdown of expenditures budgeted by the military institution was not available.

/9738

CSO: 3248/110

DEL CASTILLO INTERVIEWED ON ELECTION, FUTURE PLANS

Lima EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Nov 86 pp 13-14, 19

["Exclusive" interview with Jorge del Castillo, mayor-elect of Lima, by Maria Luisa Mendoza Orosco; date and place not given; first two paragraphs are EL NACIONAL introduction]

[Text] A few hours after his election victory, while the leftist hosts were still protesting in downtown streets in an attempt to achieve through public demonstrations what they had not won at the ballot box, Lima's future mayor, Jorge del Castillo Galvez, granted his first exclusive interview to a newspaper. In it he appealed to his erstwhile opponent, Alfonso Barrantes, and the United Left's leaders not to continue pressuring the National Election Jury with a petition to have the election results in the capital annulled.

Del Castillo, speaking as the winner in last Sunday's elections, emphasized that both Alfonso Barrantes Langan and Luis Bedoya Reyes must accept their defeat, saying that as the current mayor, the United Left's defeated candidate has the duty to hand over the keys to the capital's municipal government personally, "because choosing to do so through a city councilor selected by lot would harm his image."

EL NACIONAL: Dr del Castillo, what do you think of the epithet "bastard" which Mayor Barrantes used in reference to your election victory?

J. del Castillo: It distresses me that Alfonso Barrantes would use a word like that, because the term is not worthy of the political position occupied by the leader of the United Left. I hope he will correct himself within the next few days, because I feel that it was a thoughtless remark made when he apparently was not in a calm state of mind.

EL NACIONAL: Or perhaps because he has bitten the dust of defeat and does not want to admit it?

J. del Castillo: Well, no matter how much the defeat distressed him, he has no right to call me that. That epithet harms no one but him. It lowers him in the eyes of the nation's voters and harms his standing as a leader of the first political rank. It also shows that he does not know how to lose. I

really hope that he will correct his position because in a democracy, one must learn how to lose.

EL NACIONAL: What will happen if the National Election Jury [JNE] accepts the appeal for annulment that was presented by the United Left?

J. del Castillo: I don't think it will. They have a right to file the appeal, but they have no legal basis at all. That was why it was rejected--because it lacked legal justification--and for that very reason, I don't think the JNE will accept it. Besides, the fact that President Garcia expressed his opinion during the election campaign is not grounds for annulment.

EL NACIONAL: But the leftist leaders are saying not only that the president meddled in the election campaign but also that they have as many as three more reasons for annulment, among them the last Sunday's headline in the progovernment newspaper HOY, the 1-hour extension in voting hours that was not announced in advance, and the announcement of projected results before the voting had ended. What do you say about that?

J. del Castillo: Well, neither I nor my party can be responsible for what is said by a television station or a newspaper, nor can we be responsible, for example, for the fact that the newspaper EXPRESO said last Saturday that the election was between Bedoya and Barrantes, or that Barrantes appeared on the front page. So I don't believe there can be grounds for annulment because of that. As far as the 1-hour extension is concerned, the same thing has always happened in previous elections to make voting easier for the many citizens who arrive late. As can be seen, no valid grounds exist. That was why the appeal was rejected by the Lima Provincial Jury, and that is why I am certain that it will also be rejected by the National Election Jury.

EL NACIONAL: Don't you believe that the influence of Jorge Rendon Vasquez, currently a member of the JNE and a known sympathizer with the IU [United Left], will carry weight in getting the election declared null and void?

J. del Castillo: I don't think so. What is more, I hope that Rendon Vasquez will be fair enough to decide according to the law rather than according to the opinion of his friend Alfonso Barrantes.

Let Barrantes Hand Over the Keys to me

EL NACIONAL: What will happen if the JNE rejects the appeal and Barrantes persists in his plan to give you the keys through a councilor selected by lot?

J. del Castillo: If Barrantes does not hand them over, I will accept nothing. The mandate was given to me by the people. So I don't need a city councilor to give me anything. I will take office when the day comes to do so, and if the leftist councilors are not present, I will be very sorry, but the people's mandate takes precedence over the whims of one individual, even a Barrantes.

EL NACIONAL: Do you mean that you will not accept the office from anyone other than the outgoing mayor?

J. del Castillo: Mayor Barrantes should do his duty. Or is he thinking perhaps of taking a trip on 1 January of next year?

Election Jury Must not Be Coerced

EL NACIONAL: Dr del Castillo, the United Left has announced that it will step up its protests by holding marches and political meetings until the JNE responds favorably to its appeal. How do you view that threat?

J. del Castillo: I hope they have the proper permits from the prefecture for those marches and meetings. They know very well that legal arguments are won on the basis of soundness, not with marches or demonstrations. One cannot expect to coerce the JNE's members or to put forcible pressure on them through campaigns in the street. Such campaigns reflect insolence and constitute methods that cannot be used in this country.

That is like telling the JNE's members that if they do not respond favorably to the appeal, they will be attacked. And that is not in accordance with the rules of democracy.

PPC Without Popular Support

EL NACIONAL: But apparently, Dr del Castillo, it is not only the Left that is against you, since the PPC [Popular Christian Party] has also announced that it is going to interpellate the cabinet concerning an alleged violation by President Garcia of article 230 of the Election Law.

J. del Castillo: Look, the PPC has just been rejected at the ballot box. It wound up in last place. It is a party without popular support. As far as Bedoya is concerned, last Sunday was the day when all his hopes of running for president of the republic in 1990 died. What he must do is think things over and drop all his criticisms, which are leading nowhere. The PPC's members must be more consistent with democracy, which they say they respect.

EL NACIONAL: And accept their defeat?

J. del Castillo: Not only that. Remember that they were defeated with no extenuating circumstances. They got 25 percent. I received over 200,000 votes more than Bedoya. He has no reason to protest. Does he expect me to give him my votes?

EL NACIONAL: The PPC says that the election victory for APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] was due to meddling by President Garcia, who allegedly swayed the vote in your favor, thereby distorting the people's will.

J. del Castillo: I believe that the shift in the vote was due to Bedoya's insulting President Garcia. The PPC leader did not think the people knew how to punish those who are insolent to the nation's president.

EL NACIONAL: In your opinion, did President Garcia interfere on behalf of your election campaign or not?

J. del Castillo: I don't think so, because if that had been the case, we would have won only in Lima and not, as it turned out, almost everywhere in Peru. Remember that there were several departments, such as Piura, Ancash, and so on, which President Garcia did not visit, and yet we won a sweeping victory. We won in 18 departmental capitals. APRA's victory was nationwide.

Elections Are the Valid Poll

EL NACIONAL: Do you really believe that the "balcony appearance" played no part in your election, as the opposition says, by reversing the trend shown in the polls?

J. del Castillo: I stick to what Alfonso Barrantes said: the only valid poll is the one taken on election day. All the rest is just talk. Maybe the polls were poorly done.

I am sorry if Bedoya or any other candidate felt he was the winner because of the polls rather than because of the results at the ballot box.

Accepting Victory With Humility

EL NACIONAL: Going on to a much more pleasant subject than the sharp criticisms concerning your victory, how are you accepting your success in the election?

J. del Castillo: Calmly. I sincerely want to continue as before: humble. Why should I change? I proposed to do something, I got involved, and I achieved my objective. But there is still a long road ahead for victory.

EL NACIONAL: What does it mean to you to become mayor of Lima?

J. del Castillo: A very big commitment requiring disciplined action along with APRA's members. The work is just beginning. Moving ahead with a candidacy involves a great responsibility, but it is an even greater responsibility to be in charge of a city as important as the capital of the country. I believe that with the participation of all the city councilors, I will be able to do well in this difficult mission.

EL NACIONAL: In your opinion, to what was your election victory due?

J. del Castillo: Well, there were a number of factors.

EL NACIONAL: What, for example?

J. del Castillo: First of all, there was a high level of approval for the government's political performance. Second, there was the consistent program I presented. And third, the activity by my wife did me a lot of good during the campaign. Obviously, there were other factors, such as participation by my party's leaders, members, and sympathizers and by independent figures who supported me. So that's that.

EL NACIONAL: Were you confident of victory?

J. del Castillo: Yes, I was confident that I would win, but I never adopted, nor will I ever adopt, a triumphant attitude, because that is neither my style nor my way of life. But this does not mean that I have to tolerate insolence.

EL NACIONAL: Is the epithet used by Barrantes what you call insolence?

J. del Castillo: That's right, that's right.

EL NACIONAL: Dr del Castillo, both your erstwhile opponents and some political analysts agree in saying that your victory was due to President Garcia's personal "endorsement" of your candidacy. How do you answer that?

J. del Castillo: Well, I don't know, I don't know. Elections are like what happens in soccer: they are won with votes, and there are the votes! I leave the interpretation of those votes to them--to my noble opponents or to the political commentators.

EL NACIONAL: What appeal would you make to the defeated candidates?

J. del Castillo: That they live up to the proper standard. Both of them have run for president twice, and they still want to do so again in the next few years. If they really want that, let them show that they have the required maturity instead of causing a domestic scene and behaving like bad-mannered children who don't know how to lose and cry because someone takes away the toy they wanted--acting like bantamweights instead of the heavyweights they were pretending to be.

EL NACIONAL: Maybe they cannot accept the fact that the bantamweights were flattened by a flyweight.

J. del Castillo: Ha! Ha! Ha! Let them learn to lose, know how to lose, and accept their defeat. Life is not all successes. Besides, both of them should know what defeat is, since they have lost many times in the past.

Hoping for Cooperation From Barrantes and Bedoya

EL NACIONAL: You have announced that you will set up a kind of advisory council consisting of former mayors of Lima. Have you received support from any of them?

J. del Castillo: Not yet, but I reiterate my invitation that they accept my proposal. It strikes me as a worthwhile idea. And the first ones who should participate are Bedoya and Barrantes.

EL NACIONAL: To support you in your municipal post?

J. del Castillo: Exactly. Their job would be that of advising the mayor and, basically, contributing their experience to the decisionmaking process.

EL NACIONAL: How would you assess the administration of the current mayor of Lima?

J. del Castillo: We will make that assessment once I take over as mayor. I hope that Barrantes will transfer the office to me before 1 January 1986 [as published].

EL NACIONAL: Do you doubt that Barrantes will turn the office over to you?

J. del Castillo: Are you saying maybe that he will not turn it over to me? If he doesn't turn the keys over to me, he will have to turn them over to the General Accounting Office of the Republic.

Milk Program Will Continue

EL NACIONAL: Will the positive actions carried out by Barrantes continue under your administration?

J. del Castillo: We will continue and improve what is positive.

EL NACIONAL: Such as the "glass of milk" and the issuing of title deeds?

J. del Castillo: That's right, we will continue those programs, and, of course, we will issue valid title deeds that can be used by the long-suffering shantytown residents, whose highest aspiration is to have their own land or homes.

We Are Democrats, not Authoritarians or Totalitarians

EL NACIONAL: What is your opinion of the comment that your victory will mean the establishment of a kind of authoritarianism and totalitarianism?

J. del Castillo: We are going to demonstrate by our actions that that is not true. Our victory is a fact, and we are going to wait the legal period before taking office and demonstrate our democratic calling and training in practice. I am the mayor of Barranco, and no one can accuse me of being totalitarian or sectarian. On the contrary, I have always provided opportunities for the municipal councilors, and they acknowledge this. And when I was in the prefecture, I was tolerant toward such supposedly intransigent people as the teachers and doctors and reached agreements with them through dialogue. So why should I not be the same in the Municipality of Lima? I don't believe there is any reason to think that way. On the contrary, I guarantee that there will be more participation and democracy under my administration.

EL NACIONAL: Will autonomy in the Municipality of Lima continue?

J. del Castillo: It is stipulated in the Constitution. Let there be not the slightest doubt that the legal requirements will be complied with. I am a man of law, and I therefore comply with the law and the Constitution. It could not be any different.

No to Monopoly; Yes to Democracy

EL NACIONAL: Now that you have won the election, it is being commented that APRA has gotten a monopoly on power.

J. del Castillo: There is no such thing. It needs to be remembered that the municipality is not a branch of the state; it is an institution for municipal service. Besides, why are they afraid of the supposed accumulation of power, since it is not possible owing to the fact that the minority is represented? I advise those talking about a "monopoly" not to do it by halves.

EL NACIONAL: But isn't it true that your party controls the executive branch, the legislative branch, and now the country's most important municipality as well?

J. del Castillo: Certainly, but that does not mean a monopolization of power, because, I repeat, minorities are represented. This business about a monopoly is a hoax invented by the opposition. There is no reason to be alarmed or frightened by that false comment. There have been APRA mayors before, and there has been no excessive authoritarianism or arrogance. So why would there be any now? We are a democratic party: why should we throw our weight around?

EL NACIONAL: Speaking of your future position in the municipal government, what will be your first actions as head of the municipality?

J. del Castillo: To call on my erstwhile opponents to help me govern along with the municipal councilors from the various political parties elected to the municipal government. I hope that the wounds that have been opened will soon heal and that undemocratic attitudes will be dropped. I am very surprised that Barrantes is now adopting such an undemocratic attitude. It is really painful to see.

EL NACIONAL: As far as municipal affairs are concerned, what will you do immediately?

J. del Castillo: We will do what we said: begin the electric train project. That will be the most important task in my administration. In addition, we will begin the program to acquire compactor vehicles for street cleaning, environmental sanitation, and electricity, water, and sewers for the poor neighborhoods, not to mention continuation of the program to provide title deeds in the capital's settlements and slums and other projects.

11798

CSO: 3348/128

PLP ORGAN SLAMS U.S.-IMPOSED MILITARISM, HYPOCRISY

Castries CRUSADER in English 15 Nov 86 p 2

[Editorial: "American Might Need Not Be Right"]

[Text] There are many people in the Caribbean who fell hook-line and sinker for the American value system especially after the events in Grenada. They would brook no criticism of anything American and virtually deified President Reagan as the embodiment of all American might and as a Crusader for the values of the extreme Right. The Prime Ministers of the Eastern Caribbean especially the late Tom Adams, Dominica's Eugenia Charles and St Lucia's John Compton were uncritical and total in their acceptance of Reaganism and all its military economic, political and moral implications.

The unsavoury aspects of the American model had firmly established itself in the Caribbean long before it was demonstrable in America itself. Double standards became an accepted characteristic of Caribbean Politics and leaders felt no obligation to account to their people or even to explain the double standards in their behaviour or the contradictions in what they say and what they in fact did.

The insidious MILITARISM which had been planted in the minds of our Policemen and our leaders manifest itself in new levels of brutality in the Police forces of the Caribbean. In every island citizens were being unnecessarily brutalised and killed by policemen who envisaged their role as terrorist hunters and shoot-first custodians of law and order. In

St.Lucia the Yamaha Case was a classic of state brutality, disinformation, official conspiracy to prevent the course of justice and Government corruption.

In recent weeks the question of human rights flared in America as a Columbian Journalist PATRICIA Lara was debarred from entering the United States. She was arrested at Kennedy International Airport and her visa revoked on the grounds that Immigration Authorities believed that she might "engage in subversive activities." This form of totalitarianism from a country which was insisting that the Soviets should release American Journalist Nicholas Daniloff, is amazing.

However the Caribbean itself has employed this brand of totalitarianism long before the

Lara Case. In St. Lucia the England Family was deported for "Subversive Activities" which the Government could not substantiate or prove and which the Englands repeatedly denied. The Government argued that in the interest of NATIONAL SECURITY (what ever that means) it was free to take this sort of tyrannical action without the necessity to prove actual or intended subversion to anyone.

The long-hand of Reaganism had reached deep into the Cabinets of the Caribbean and no one stopped to question the morality or the legality of it. The Caribbean Courts have been notorious for their sycophantic support for incumbent regimes and the hysteria which the United States has generated on the subject of TERRORISM has removed the objectivity from decision-making bodies and Courts of Law in dealing with such matters. It is revealing in recent weeks to see the full panoply of American

double standards come into play on the subject of Terrorism. The President and Congress laid down strict and binding laws on the sale and Trade of arms to terrorists, but at the same time US Officials were covertly exchanging arms for hostages with the Iranians.

What excuses could be brought now by Messrs. Charles and Compton to defend the morality their American mentors? Maybe quietly both John Compton and Eugenia Charles must be appreciating the argument that our small size does not condemn us to an existence of sub-servience and immorality. Our need for Aid could never justify or condone the moral system imposed on us by Reganism.

In a word, AMERICAN MIGHT NEED NOT BE RIGHT and the Eastern Caribbean could stand firmly on principles and be a strong supporter of HUMAN RIGHTS in the International Forum.

/9274

CSO: 3298/068

SLP INFIGHTING SAID TO HAMPER FUTURE AT POLLS

Castries CRUSADER in English 1 Nov 86 p 2

[Editorial: "SLP Ready to Fight...Among Themselves!"]

[Text] The St Lucia Labour Party is spending much time and money in trying to convince the public that they are ready to take on the matter of Government and ready to fight. The very insistence and urgency with which they push this line is itself a cause for suspicion.

The hard sell on their preparedness for office reveals an internal uneasiness about their competence to govern. Admittedly when one looks at the UWP Administration and the way they have bungled on for many years, it is easy to run away with the impression that any half wit could be a Minister of Government providing there are Permanent secretaries and other officials to do the paper-work.

This kind of BROOMSTICK POLITICS has permeated the Caribbean for many years but now that the survival of small mini-states in a hostile international world has become so crucial it is vital for mini states like St. Lucia to utilise their best resources with maximum efficiency.

The SLP has been disappointing on their approach to gaining political office. Their rationale is this- the ground is firmly against the Government so if the SLP beat their

chests and use the media to get people to see them as the ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT then they will be voted comfortably into office. This ludicrous wishful thinking is far from the realities of St. Lucian politics today.

The ground might well be against the Government but if the ground is not cut from them by a vibrant people movement then voters will assume that there is no serious contender and allow the incumbents to stay put. Another myth which the SLP has embraced is wishing away the Progressive Labour Party and telling voters that the PLP will not contest the elections. This is both trite and unrealistic. A better approach for the SLP would have been to win the PLP ground support and leave the voters to see where the wind was blowing. But the SLP seem intent on trying to manoeuvre themselves into Government instead of gaining full-bodied people's support on the ground.

The rank-and-file Labour support in St. Lucia is looking on curiously at this new phenomenon of an Opposition Labour Party using expensive public relations techniques extensive paid radio and TV advertisement.

Producing calendars and T-Shirts well ahead of the campaign but still nervous about public appearances. The Labourites cannot feel the ring of sincerity and dedication which they got from Labour platforms in 1979. They are uneasy about the chequered state of candidates which the SLP is threatening to unleash on the long suffering electorate:

So although the political opinion on the ground is not running in favour of the ruling United Workers Party, one cannot say with any hint of honesty that it is either in favour of the SLP or the PLP.

So the SLP can shout in paid advertisements till they are blue in the face but there is no evidence that the tide of political opinion is moving in their favour. As a matter of fact it is really disturbing for them what little mileage has come from all the funds which have been expended in trying to win Labour support.

This brings us to the Central dilemma of the SLP which one suspects will haunt them at the polls next year. As any good Public Relations firm would advise, it is essential for the SLP to paper over all the cracks of disunity in the Party, but the cracks are so structured that the paper has become superfluous and useless.

The Foster Episode had not been handled. cannot be handled. has not

been handled, and will not be handled effectively by next election time. A yo-yo game has gone on with Foster and the candidacy for the Anse-La Raye Canaries seat.

Julian Hunte has rejected Foster, he has embraced him, he has wooed him, he has tried to bribe him with alternative positions but still the SLP has not heard the last of this counter-claim to legitimacy. Foster feels deep-down that Party leader Julian Hunte has no legitimacy to deny him a constituency.....and that's the nub of it.

Labour Party stalwarts who have watched the party pantomime over the years have their eyes rivetted to the pathetic little duet going on between Party leader Julian Hunte and Deputy leader Peter Josie.

They have in recent times heard open public statements by Josie about Hunte and by Hunte about Josie. They are aware that there is no love lost between the two, but they are also aware that the political realities demand that some accommodation must of necessity be made. They are eyeing the situation apprehensively. the dislocation between the Cenacs and the Hunte element is open and often embittered. but these are not the deepest of the divisions in the Party and the atmosphere of uncertainty surrounding the grouping, turns on some more serious implications.

Given this crisis of credibility the frequent statements of the SLP that they are READY.....might be accurate. they are READY TO FIGHT....AMONG THEMSELVES.

SLP LEADER HUNTE HITS UWP, DESCRIBES PARTY'S AIMS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE (St Lucia Labor Party 36th Anniversary Supplement)
in English 25 Oct 86 p 6

[Article by Julian Hunte, leader of the St Lucia Labor Party: "Voice Labour--
The Only Choice"]

[Text] It is clear--most St Lucians are totally disappointed with the performance of the present U.W.P. administration and they are prepared to make the necessary change when the Prime Minister decides to call the next general elections. What is also quite clear, is that the Saint Lucia Labour Party is ready to replace the tired, time-worn regime of the John Compton administration. The only real choice that the electorate will have at the next general elections is a reorganised SLP, with the political will to tackle the problems of the country.

The UWP's under Compton are still living in the hope of pulling off the big deal with some foreign group to bring salvation to our people. This is why Compton sold Park Estate in the 1960's to a foreigner who promised all kinds of development and employment opportunities for the people in that area. It has taken Compton nearly twenty years, to realise that none of the promises have been kept, so where are we today? The Prime Minister is again about to sell Park Estate to another group of foreigners with the promise that they too will bring investment and employment opportunities. We have to stop fooling ourselves! We have to stop believing that every Tom, Dick and Harry who comes to St Lucia with a briefcase and a "white face" will be the saviours of our people? Didn't Compton tell us that the Hess Terminal in Cul-de-Sac will have brought so much employment to St Lucia that we would have had to bring in workers from outside? What is the reality of this situation?

Today the Hess Site is like a grave yard. Not too long ago the Taiwanese were to be the new saviours. Large delegations went to Taiwan and the Government could not find enough time to sing the praises of the good intentions of the newly found saviours, but Nothing has happened.

The Saint Lucia Labour Party will formulate the policies that will take our small nation along the path of self-reliance. This country from here on can

only develop if it pulls itself up by its own bootstraps. The era of self-reliance is upon us, and if we fail to recognise that--if we still believe that there are international godfathers waiting to help us, then we will have lost track of the reality of the situation. The saying that God will only help those who help themselves, is applicable to St Lucia today.

Relevant

The Government is still living in the past. They have failed to recognise that the policies of the U.W.P. prior to 1974 and before the fuel crisis are no longer relevant to the needs of this country in today's world: yet they persist in building multi-million dollar factory shells at Vieux Fort in anticipation of the big investor from outside. But the factory shells remain empty because there are no investors. Look around those of you who can see and tell me what major industrial investment has come into St Lucia from outside since 1982. The answer is none. In fact more jobs have been lost than have been created in the industrial sector since this government assumed office in 1982. But millions of dollars are still being spent preparing factory shells whose rentals are beyond the capability of most St Lucians who are in need of factory space to house small workshops.

The Government has not even thought of including in its factory development programme, smaller shells at a lower rental for locals who need small factory space. In its so-called industrial development thrust, this government has written off St Lucians. The policy of this government is merely to turn St Lucians into employment fodder for the wheels of the foreign industrialist. What the St Lucia Labour Party is saying is that we must change this, and quickly. While we are prepared to encourage foreign investment capital into this country, we are also committed to encouraging local capital and entrepreneurship in playing a meaningful role in the industrial development of their country.

The policy of an SLP government will be "nationalistic" in nature, a government that places people before projects and profits, a government that will pursue a social and economic policy programme that will give St Lucia back to St Lucians.

This Party considers that St Lucia does not belong to us today. To more and more people in this country, the ordinary St Lucians, life is becoming unbearable to an increasing extent. It will be the policy of the St Lucia Labour Party to make life less difficult for all St Lucians. The present government has failed to involve the masses in participating in government policies. In fact this government is run by the Prime Minister, a few of the Cabinet Ministers, a few privileged UWP's and some foreigners in this country who are the main architects of public policy. The St Lucia Labour Party must destroy this cabal and democratize the country so that ordinary St Lucians feel that their opinions matter in their country and that the opinions of foreigners are not more important than theirs. This is our country and we must be the masters of our own destiny.

The programme of the U.W.P. has failed. Unemployment has increased since 1982. There has been a net fall in the number of people employed in

manufacturing because of the closure of several factories, there has been no real expansion in the tourist industry, and since agriculture cannot offer any major increases in employment unless there is a new innovative agricultural policy, the standard of living of most St Lucians have in fact fallen since 1982. There has been no real increase in economic activity to take care of the rising needs of the people.

Affecting

The U.W.P. have no articulated agricultural policy and as a result, agricultural development during the last four years, has been left to mere chance. The most serious problem affecting agriculture today is the problem of marketing. While the Prime Minister has described the Agricultural Marketing Board as an object failure, nothing has been done to correct the situation. Farmers have no incentive to increase production, because the marketing facilities are not in place to provide the necessary incentive. Nothing has been done in the area of diversification, because the success of which depends on a better marketing arrangements.

In industry, or tourism, agriculture or housing, health or education, the U.W.P. cannot boast of any major policy successes in anyone of these areas. It is clear that Compton and the U.W.P'ees have no place else to go but into the political archives. They have lost touch with the people, and the Prime Minister is failing to take St Lucians into his confidence. Up to now, St Lucians do not have a clue as to who the Danes are, but the Prime Minister has agreed to sell them over 1,000 acres of prime agricultural land, and not even the members of Parliament know the details of the sale. St Lucians have heard about a company taking over Funding Scheme, that company is still to be named.

The time will soon be here when the people will have to decide on the future of their country. During the last four years the St Lucia Labour Party has been cautiously preparing itself to take over the reins of government. We have reorganised our party, settled our leadership issue, and we are in the final stages of preparing our social and economic programme for implementation when we form the next government of St Lucia.

The St Lucia Labour Party is ready to give St Lucia back to St Lucians and, to help create a society where the ordinary person can live in hope and to take them out of the situation of despair that prevails in St Lucia today. The SLP cannot produce miracles but we guarantee that the policies of an SLP government will put St Lucians first so that every St Lucian must be given equal an opportunity, to make life easier for himself and his family. If you are a St Lucian who want to see that sort of change, then you have no choice, but to support the party to bring about that change. We must vote for the Saint Lucia Labour Party.

/9274

CSO: 3298/068

FEATURES OF LABOR PARTY'S ELECTION PLATFORM REPORTED

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE (St Lucia Labor Party 36th Anniversary Supplement)
in English 25 Oct 86 pp 5, 10

[Text]

AN idea of the sort of programmes a Labour Party Government would pursue was given recently by party leader Julian Hunte in a major policy address to a special conference of delegates.

Hundreds of delegates, friends and supporters of the party had met to begin the task of putting together a social and economic policy for the country to be implemented in the event of an SLP victory at the polls.

This policy will form the main thrust of the SLP's campaign in the coming election. The highlights are as follows:

The St. Lucia Labour Party will seek to:

1. Create 2,000 jobs in the economy within the first two and a half years in office.
2. Strengthen the linkages between the various sectors in the economy in order to create a more integrated pattern of development.
3. Direct the country towards greater self-reliance by the encouragement of local entrepreneurs through special incentives and to make this country self sufficient particularly in food production, through a vigorous programme of import substitution.
4. Ensure that all St. Lucians share in the benefits of economic growth through better social, health, and community facilities with special emphasis on deprived areas.

Those are some of the main objectives of the St. Lucia Labour Party's economic policy. In order to achieve these objectives the Government of the St. Lucia Labour Party will be prepared to use whatever legislative, budgetary, and fiscal and Monetary adjustments necessary, to meet these goals. However, there will be greater public participation in the creation of the strategies to meet these goals. In order to give Saint Lucians a greater say in economic policy, one of the first things that the Saint Lucia Labour Party Government will do, is to set up a National Economic Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. This National Economic Council

will be broad-based to be made up of Cabinet Ministers, representatives in the business sector, trade unions, farmers organisations and cooperatives, youth groups and other interest groups in the society. The Council will formulate specific strategies for development in the various sectors of the economy. The Council will operate to meet certain targeted goals in the various sectors and will prepare, monitor and evaluate strategies.

Important decisions which are now being made by the Prime Minister alone will in future be made in consultation with representation of persons and groups whose interest and cooperation are necessary for successful implementation. Having set a target for reducing the importation of food into St. Lucia by increasing local production, the Economic Council will work out the strategy for achieving that goal. Local farmers complain that the commercial sector is purchasing more imported foods at the expense of locally produced food; the National Economic Council will be set the task of resolving this matter. It is important to note that both the farmers representatives and the business community will be represented on the National Economic Council and they will together participate in working out a strategy for correcting the problem. And what is even more important the Council will be in a position to monitor the situation to determine whether both sides are keeping to the terms agreed by the council. This N.E.C. which will be the first order of business in a Saint Lucia Labour Party Government will set up the machinery for cooperation in economic development, consistent with our general policy of giving St. Lucians a greater say in their country.

AGRICULTURE

The St. Lucia Labour Party Government must put agricultural diversification as number one priority in its programme for making this country more self-reliant. However, it is necessary that incentives be granted to farmers who use their land to grow alternative crops, and Government will make available the necessary tools to assist in that diversification. Our agricultural

policy must include a comprehensive marketing policy and in that regard farmers cooperatives will play a pivotal role.

The Saint Lucia Labour Party Government will have as far as possible a policy that all agricultural lands must be owned by St. Lucians, and so our administration's implementation of the Alien's Landholding Registration Ordinance will reflect this policy.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The present industrial development programme needs critical appraisal.

An SLP administration will attempt through special incentives, adequate factory space, and through a system of easier accessibility of finance, to create more opportunities for local entrepreneurs in the field of industry. I wish to stress that the SLP will in no way discourage foreign investment as it sees foreign investment as complementary to local investment in terms of the solution to our problems of industrialisation and unemployment. We will also set about encouraging joint ventures between local and foreign entrepreneurs as we feel that this is more desirable than purely foreign investment in most fields. We will also encourage greater integrated development between agriculture, industry, and tourism in a well thought out agro-industrial programme.

TOURISM

Today, Tourism in St. Lucia exists only for a small clique who reap the vast majority of its benefits. St. Lucians are destined to enjoy only the crumbs of the tourist cake. **An SLP Government will create the environment for St. Lucians to begin to share in the larger piece of the tourist cake.** We will pursue a vigorous policy of promotion and encourage the development of a tourist product which blends naturally into the total St. Lucian environment.

We will reorganise the Tourist Board with a view to making it more representative of a larger cross-section of the various parts of the industry.

We will promote the training of St. Lucians in all aspects of the industry so that St. Lucians can enjoy the highest paid jobs in the industry.

We will provide financial and other support necessary to encourage St. Lucians to build small and medium size hotels and aim for a larger portion of the CARICOM trade.

The tourist sector cannot seem to be developing away from the other sectors of the economy. We will encourage the creation of more direct linkages between the various other sectors, so that the benefits will spread through the whole economy.

FINANCE

In the overall economic programme, it is necessary for the Saint Lucia Labour Party Government to have better control over the financial institutions in the country. One of the problems facing us is the fact that, monetary policy is almost impossible to pursue in the small Caribbean territories, which share the same currency. In many cases, we will need to use monetary policy in conjunction with fiscal policy to meet desired goals. But because of our inability to pursue effective monetary policy through our Central Bank because it serves eight independent nations, it will be necessary for the Saint Lucia Labour Party to strengthen the banking laws in order to be in a stronger position to influence the policies of banks operating in the State.

We do not believe in instituting controls that are unnecessary but the Government of Saint Lucia must have some influence on the direction of this most important area of economic activity. We

/9274

CSO: 3298/068

feel that it is necessary for banks to work more closely with Government in meeting desired goals. One of the first orders of business of this SLP Government will be to work out with the banking community ways and means of achieving this.

Secondly, we need to re-organise the insurance industry to allow for more effective regulation of the industry so that more funds will be made available for investment and job creation.

The SLP Government will take a closer look at the role of the St. Lucia Development Bank. **The Development Bank must be pivotal in developing the new St. Lucian entrepreneurs and it is necessary for the Bank to work hand in hand with the Government of the SLP in the creation of this new St. Lucian businessman.** At this time, the Bank finds itself in a position where it cannot be innovative in its lending policies because of the conditions under which it borrows the funds to on-lend. The Saint Lucia Labour Party Government will identify both from the international scene and locally to lend to the Development Bank who will on-lend to "high risk" borrowing. There are many St. Lucians with good investment ideas, but cannot meet the stringent loan conditions of the Bank. The SLP Government will have to help those people in their effort to diversify the ownership of business in St. Lucia.

Still on diversification of ownership, the SLP Administration will ensure that small local businessmen will develop in a favourable environment where the banking system particularly the NCB, will play an important role in the creation of a diversified commercial sector. At the same time, the SLP Government will define the areas where foreign ownership will be discouraged in favour of local ownership.

FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Early in its administration an SLP Government will review all aspects of fiscal arrangements with the aim of ensuring that there is an equitable distribution of the tax burden and that there are incentives for St. Lucians to work harder and produce more.

The new fiscal arrangement will ensure the following:-

1. No income tax will be payable on the level of income necessary to provide basic needs of food, clothing and housing.
2. Tax deductions will not reduce the take-home pay of any worker.
3. Enhance the viability of all businesses and create conditions for increased economic growth and thereby generate greater employment.
4. The Stamp Duty on basic goods will be reviewed.
5. Corporation tax will be reviewed and steps taken to introduce a graduated tax range as opposed to the straight 45% now being charged.
6. More favourable tax allowances will be introduced in respect of start-up and formation expenditure for all small business. A tax deferral regime will be looked into for the earlier years of small local businesses.
7. Fiscal policy will be used to encourage development in priority areas with emphasis placed on the development of agriculture, industry and tourism.

These are the broad outlines under which SLP will chart a new path of development for St. Lucia. Our policies are workable and people-oriented. We believe that St. Lucians deserve a better chance to participate in the development of their country. We must put an end to the Compton regime that continues to keep St. Lucia in economic stagnation and increasing unemployment.

SLP APPROACH TO NECESSARY ECONOMIC CHANGES OUTLINED

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE (St Lucia Labor Party 36th Anniversary Supplement)
in English 25 Oct 86 p 12

[Article: "Living With Labor"]

[Text]

THE St. Lucia Labour Party is a people-based and oriented party and from inception has served the majority of St. Lucians. However with the demise of the party certain patterns have surfaced in St. Lucia which will ultimately lead to chaos and an erosion of the fragile foundation of our island.

A pattern or structure of privilege has slowly developed and has infiltrated the social, economic and political life of St. Lucia. This means that all decisions made in the country depend on a "connection," not merit or hard work. Certain elements believe that they have a God-given right to certain things. These, "things" may range from jobs to the control of economic entities. That territory is precious and no one should try to infiltrate. The established network is so powerful and widespread that it is able to frustrate any new or aspiring entrants.

Such a system leads to an unfair and corrupt society where dedication and hard work may not always reap results. The St. Lucia Labour Party believes in the principle of equality and fairness. We believe that each man must be allowed to develop according to his means and talent. No institution should be used as a lever to secure favours for a minority of people.

The St. Lucia Labour Party has noted with concern the arrogance and lack of accountability which passes for government in our country. The people are seldom consulted, in fact, not even elected representatives of the people are aware of important policy decisions. Government is the act of "masters" and servants under the present regime. It is almost suicidal to ask questions on simple but important national issues. Contact with leaders of government is difficult and sometimes impossible. This situation has arisen because St. Lucians have been taken for granted and their opinion really does not matter. Politicians are only seen near election time.

The St. Lucia Labour Party pledges to conduct the people's business with humility and a sense of decency, to avoid political arrogance at all costs and to remember always that politicians are first and foremost servants of the people.

The St. Lucia Labour Party believes that the destiny of St. Lucia should be in the hands of St. Lucians. This does not mean that the approach should be insular, narrow or selfish. We are well aware that our island cannot hope to develop without outside help and assistance. In fact, the party is a firm supporter of Caribbean integration and unity.

However the S.L.P. rejects the notion that we cannot as qualified St. Lucians strive to command the heights of our economy. We believe that St. Lucians should be given all available incentives to own, control and manage the resources of the country.

Our approach is to change the economic structure and prepare the path to economic nationalism. The present policy of survival of the fittest has forced young St. Lucians to remain subdued and under-developed in their business ventures.

A look at the empty factory shelves clearly demonstrates that the era of the "big" investor is coming to an end. The world economic situation does not create the environment for massive foreign investment projects. While welcoming foreign investment, the S.L.P. is sure that there are St. Lucians both home and abroad who, given the necessary encouragement will make positive investment in St. Lucia and bring about a better country for themselves and all other citizens.

The S.L.P. rejects the notion that St. Lucians are not responsible or qualified to manage large concerns. The progress and development of the St. Lucia National Commercial Bank is clear manifestation of that myth. What is clear is that given firm and clear policy guidelines, good qualified management and the absence of narrow political interference, St. Lucians can make a success in business.

In its quest for national development and economic growth, the S.L.P. will strive to create an environment where St. Lucians have reason to enjoy pride and love for the nation. All sectors will be involved in the development of self and country. The wicked system of elitism, political victimisation, patronage and deception in public and business life will be transformed. Employment and job creation will not be used to further only political objectives. The S.L.P. believes that **ALL ST. LUCIANS** have the **RIGHT TO WORK** in the island of their birth, regardless of political opinion, race or creed.

Presently jobs are seen as "favours" given by politicians in return for political support. People must be "grateful" because some politician secured some job in government or in the private sector. Any divergence from the views of the political party of that politician is regarded as an act of political treachery.

The S.L.P. believes in the dignity of man and the right to work and to an education to maintain himself and family. On no account must that fundamental right be denied.

Life in St. Lucia today is pervaded by gossip, half-truths, rumours, innuendos, name-calling, news carrying, bad talk, victimisation and general fear and insecurity. In fact, business life is literally a war-path with greed, deception, connections and double standards the order of the day.

This situation is aggravated by the constant threats of politicians the lack of direction of the leaders, the failure to meet obligations and promises, the breaking of solemn arrangements etc. In fact, justice is seen only as existing for the poor and under-privileged.

The S.L.P. maintains that our island is too small to be engulfed in these negative factors. We believe that our country should be built on the pillars of respect and dignity and an appreciation of the role played by the rural and low-paid wage earners in the country. Government projects must be aimed at the betterment of the standard of living of the youth, farmers, fishermen, labourers and rural folk. The time has come for the promotion of "people projects." We must put people first. The big show-piece projects which do not in any way improve the standard of living of the majority of St. Lucians must be down-scaled. Government policy must not be aimed primarily at helping the "big" man only.

Adequate recognition must be given to the role of parents, policemen, nurses, teachers and civil servants. Old-age pensioners must be adequately compensated for their services.

The rights of women and children must be respected. Our women must never be seen as tools to be used by "privileged" persons in return for jobs or some other form of favour. Children must be given the basic nutrition for normal and balanced growth.

Our sports people will be encouraged to engage in pursuits for the pride of themselves and country. Sports must not be used as a political "football" to enhance the ambition of politicians. Sports development programmes and infra-structure must be put in place island-wide. No sports project must be seen as a grand bonanza due to the magic gifts of politicians.

The St. Lucia Labour Party in its policy direction puts people first. We believe in the divinity of God and the total freedom of religion and political affiliation. We believe that government is about people and we will always endeavour to rule with humility, fairness and justice. We solemnly believe that St. Lucia should be and can be a happier place for everyone. We abhor all forms of segregation, economic or otherwise and pledge to dismantle any system existing in St. Lucia which promotes inequality, victimisation or unfairness.

We categorically condemn the system of apartheid in South Africa and when in government will unflinchingly express our solidarity and support for the freedom fighters in South Africa.

We implore St. Lucians to give us a chance to transform the situation in St. Lucia. We have learnt by our mistakes and pledge to work for the improvement of all St. Lucia. We believe that the ruling party has run out of ideas and the time is right for a change before it is too late and we all perish.

/9274

CSO: 3298/068

SLP POSES POLICY QUESTIONS TO UWP ADMINISTRATION

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE (St Lucia Labor Party 36th Anniversary Supplement)
in English 25 Oct 86 p 12

[Article: "Some Questions People Are Asking"]

[Text]

1. Who are the Danes and why is John Compton ready to accept them in St. Lucia when they were asked to leave St. Vincent.
2. When will Lansiquot tell the people why the Chairman resigned from the board of the National Lottery.
3. Why is someone being paid \$30,000 per month to run a towing service.
4. When will we know the reasons for transferring Mason from the Ministry of Communications & Works?
5. Who agreed to a waiver of \$700,000 in land transfer tax in favour of a foreign owned Land Development Company?
6. Who authorised the recent sale of the equipment belonging to the Funding Scheme.
7. When will Lansiquot give the people an Audited Statement of the accounts of the National Lottery?
8. Why was the contract for the multi million dollar office block signed in Miami?
9. How many St. Lucians are now employed at Club Mediterran in Vieux-Fort?
10. How much money has been spent on Ministers travelling overseas?
11. Why did the Government buy a two decker bus to transfer tourist to the Point Seraphine when there are so many taxi drivers and bus owners looking for work?
12. Why Lansiquot has not made any further noise for the \$75,000?
13. Why Mallet is still holding the portfolio of Minister of Trade & Industry?

/9274

CS0: 3298/068

UPM OFFICIAL HITS DISPATCH OF RSS FORCES TO GRENADA

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 8 Dec 86 p 19

[Text]

KINGSTOWN, Sunday, (CANA) - Deputy political leader of the opposition United People's Movement (UPM), Adrian Saunders, has criticised St. Vincent's decision to send policemen to Grenada to help maintain peace.

"St Vincent and the Grenadines has no responsibility to maintain or assist in the maintenance of internal order in Grenada," Saunders said.

St. Vincent and other members of the Regional Security Service (RSS)

sent para-military police to St. George's last week amidst fears of unrest as the Maurice Bishop murder trial neared the end.

Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize had requested the assistance.

Saunders said the situation clearly exposed the dangers and flaws that were inherent in RSS. He asked whether it was now to be the norm for Vincentian policemen to be sent to any member territory of the RSS at the request of a prime minister.

Saunders said the action of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Government raised several questions such as -who determined whether Blaize's "fears" were justifiable, under whose command the local policemen would be while in Grenada, who would guarantee their safety, and who was "footing the bill for this operation".

Saunders said that indications were that Blaize's "fears" did not relate to any threat of foreign invasion but were purely an internal matter for which, as a sovereign independent country, Grenada had exclusive responsibility.

/9274

CSO. 3298/064

EXCERPTS FROM TEXT OF NAR'S 15-PART ELECTION MANIFESTO

Port of Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS (NAR Manifesto Supplement) in English 7 Dec 86
pp 1-28

[Excerpts]

[Part 1: A Nation in Crisis]

Riding on the crest of the anti-colonial wave of the 1950's, the ruling party made its dramatic appearance on the local political scene with a sense of historical mission and destiny. It fired the imagination of the people and awakened in them an incipient nationalism. The party began full of promise and offered unlimited hope for the future.

Alas! As has happened in so many other newly independent countries in Asia, Africa and elsewhere in the Caribbean, the party fell victim to the challenges and temptations of office and of power. It was unable to transcend its original goal of wresting power from its colonial master. It failed to develop a new sense of purpose and the political will to achieve the genuine liberation of our people. Not surprisingly, it abandoned its stated goal of the economic and social transformation of our society.

Out of the national movement came a clique of individuals, committed to the politics of manipulation and control, determined to cling to office and to power, at whatever cost to the national community.

Today diversionary tactics of all sorts are used by the regime to distract from the real issues and to cover up scandals and blunders. False alarms, false arrests, organised propaganda, scare tactics and dirty tricks define the style of government which the people of Trinidad and Tobago have to endure every day. Every decision and action is in the service of power; to accumulate more and to preserve it more!

Loyalty to Trinidad and Tobago has come to mean loyalty, submission and dependency upon the ruling party.

On the economic front, the situation steadily grows worse. Strikes, lockouts, collapse of financial houses, receiverships etc., have wreaked havoc with the lives of honest, hard-working citizens. Joblessness has become the order of the day. The Government cannot pay wages to its workers nor can it meet its financial commitments to the local government bodies and businessmen of the country. The working family, the very bedrock of our nation, struggles to stay together.

Yet, notwithstanding the woes which the people have to endure in the throes of this economic crisis, the government keeps demolishing the huts of the poor and the stalls of vendors in the most ruthless and arrogant fashion. Vagrancy abounds. Senior citizens in the care of the state are sent up in flames through criminal negligence at a hospital. People are treated as things, as though they are bloodless, without feelings, without desires, without minds. Such is the cold, calculated arrogance of the party in power.

As we approach the General Elections, the critical issues of the day are very clear!

Critical issues of the day

1. Jobs: Today there are more than 100,000 people unemployed of whom more than

50,000 are youths. Everyday more people are thrown on the breadline as businesses, large, medium and small, come to an abrupt end. Workers who have given their life's service to major companies cannot receive their severance benefits to which they are legally entitled. Workers in oil and in sugar, workers on the docks, civil servants - jobs of ail and sundry, are threatened by the precarious economic conditions. And there is absolutely no hope for reprieve under the present Government.

2. Corruption: Corruption of all types has become the norm in the country. Corruption has become a way of life, and none are more jealously protected by the State than the corrupt. Under the existing regime, persons of independence and integrity are now an endangered species. They are not even entitled to invitations to social functions.

The O'Halloran scandal; the PLIPDECO cover-up; the *mv* Tobago disaster; the multi-million dollar market in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce involving licences and concessions; the admission by senior government officials of corruption in DEWD, not to mention the ultra-lucrative Drug Trafficking Racket which has ensnared senior bureaucrats, and party members at various levels of the State System, these are but a few of the many scandals which have plagued our country.

3. Mismanagement and Waste: Mismanagement and waste of our resources have been the outcome of these corrupt practices which have cost the nation hundreds of millions of dollars.

The original contract price of the Mt. Hope Medical Complex was \$515m; the final cost was \$661m, a difference of \$146m; the original contract price for the Hall of Justice was \$98m while the final cost was \$291m, a difference of \$193m; the original contract price of the Financial Complex, now known as the Eric Williams Plaza, was \$79m, the final cost was \$497m, a difference of \$418m. Add to those figures the \$114m wasted on the Racing Complex and we get a cost over-run of over half a billion dollars on only these four (4) projects. And this does not include the Princess Margaret Highway/Butler Highway; ISCOTT, NFC, etc.

4. A Bankrupt State: No one knows the exact state of the country's finances except

the small clique in the Cabinet and perhaps a few senior civil servants in the Ministry of Finance.

What we do know is, in 1986, another election year: the government has frequently failed to meet its payroll; its credit with many of its suppliers is exhausted; it is using loans and savings to finance current consumption; in the first six months of 1986 it borrowed heavily to the tune of \$425m locally and has been seeking, without success, to borrow \$1 billion abroad; it has thrown its statutory corporations and state enterprises like BWIA and Caroni on to the market to get credit as they can, thus competing with small business and individuals to their disadvantage; TELCO and others too, will have to borrow. In the first six months of 1986 government collected \$3.25 billion dollars in revenue and spent \$4 billion.

Estimated revenue for the whole of 1986 was approximately \$7.6 billion and estimated expenditure \$9.1 billion and government expected to borrow \$1.5 billion; \$300 million locally and \$1.2 billion overseas.

By end of June government had not been able to raise one cent overseas but had borrowed more locally than the estimate for the whole year.

The 1986 Budget has therefore been totally abandoned with no revision of the figures brought to Parliament for approval.

As with the establishment of Special Funds during the oil bonanza years, the constitutional role of Parliament has been completely subverted.

Our net foreign reserves which in 1981 stood at \$7.6 billion, have almost all been eaten up, so that in September of 1986 there remained but \$1.45 billion, and this at post-devaluation rates. This, of course, will be eaten up for the forthcoming elections.

5. Housing: Rents are so exorbitant and property values so astronomically high that many working people must resort to squatting so as to shelter themselves. Because of this irrational situation, many working families are destined to spend the rest of their lives as tenants. The dream of owning their own house will forever elude them under this regime. Many who have made sacrifices for houses find them deficient or otherwise of the poorest quality as in Malabar, La Horquetta, Maloney, Bonair and Edinburgh 500. Many working people, unable to find accommodation at reasonable rental rates in or around the city must commute long

distances every day, sometimes spending more on travelling than they actually earn. And yet, the Government condemns the people of this Nation for 'poor productivity' of which they are the root cause.

6. Social Decay: Economic depression and financial pressures on individuals and families have bred a sense of despair and hopelessness. Many are forced into drugs to escape the harsh realities of their existence. Today, a thriving drug culture cripples the Youth of our Nation while the Government allows the drug dealers and drug peddlers to blossom and

bloom in the most extravagant magnificence. Crime has also become a way of life for many people and vagrants are a menace to our citizens in the very heart of the nation's cities. Everywhere there are signs of our deep moral and spiritual crisis and stagnation. Yet they proudly boast of giving us stability. Their ideal of stability is the grave.

7. Business Failures: During the last few months, commercial houses as well as finance and insurance companies have gone into receivership on account of the economic

contraction. Small businesses disappear overnight. Homes are repossessed or advertised for sale. Confidence in the economy is at its lowest ebb and the situation threatens to become worse as depression bites more deeply into the commercial banking sector with every passing day.

8. Inadequate medical facilities: About \$700 million have been spent on one single medical institution--the Mt Hope Medical Complex--which has done absolutely nothing to enhance the health of this nation. There is overcrowding in our nation's hospitals--except Mt Hope which is an empty showpiece--a shortage of beds and drugs, breakdowns in vital equipment, lack of ambulances and lack of emergency and intensive care facilities. And despite the Mt Hope Medical Complex, there is a dire need for hospitals around the country.

9. Breakdown of Public Institutions: Public institutions have been subverted. Parliament has been emasculated and has become a virtual rubber stamp of the Government. The system of Local Government has all but collapsed. Many counties are yet to receive their financial disbursements for the first half of the year. The recent levy on the property of the PNM-controlled Port of Spain City Corporation and the complete humiliation of the City Mayor confirm the breakdown of the system. The Tobago House of Assembly suffers from victimisation by the ruling regime. It has been denied its legal functions and is today starved of funds. Even the Central Tenders Board, designed to make business practices between State and citizen fair and equal, has been riddled with all sorts of accusations of corrupt practices and dealings.

10. Loss of Opportunities: The economic contraction has severely curtailed the opportunities of the people of this country at all levels and in all spheres of their social existence. The youths of our Nation are particularly hard hit in this regard since there is an unprecedented scramble for places at various educational institutions; and many more, particularly because of the devaluation of the \$TT, whose interests are not provided for at home, can no longer pursue their career dreams abroad. Many who grasped the opportunities during the anarchy of the boom years and ventured into self-employed activities, are now on the breadline. And in the open and behind the scenes, many small businesses are being gobbled up by monopoly concerns. Not too long ago we travelled the world; now we have to be satisfied with television.

11. **The Poverty Cycle:** The sum total of the economic and political situation is that those who have been victims of the culture of poverty over the years continue to remain trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty. Many who managed to escape the syndrome for a while have been knocked back into the crowd by the recession and the recent devaluation. Darkness has once more enveloped the disadvantaged of our nation where the inhabitants tell each other stories about the hopes and promises they had and the betrayal which they suffered. Theirs is a world in which shades of illusion pass from hope and from which, they are beginning to understand, there is no promise of escape under the present regime.

12. **No Accountability:** Yet, inspite of all of this, Government ministers accept responsibility for nothing. They do not consider themselves accountable to anybody for anything. They are among the most skilled in the world in the art of "cover-up". The rule of law does not apply to the Cabinet and the hierarchy of the ruling party Ministers may commit or be involved in the most scandalous acts of incompetence, negligence, impropriety or even illegality. Ministers may even be shot and treated at state hospitals. These acts are covered up or simply ignored.

13. **Lack of Patriotism:** The greatest damage to the country has been caused by the failure of the government to foster among the population moral and spiritual values and a sense of patriotism. There is lack of leadership, of vision, of planning and political will. The vulture-like behaviour at the top has fostered materialism, self-seeking and individualism in all sections of our community. The party in power has fostered the attitude of not what I can do for my country, but what I can get out of it.

[Part 4: Recovery and Reconstruction]

Economic Recovery Plan

An NAR Government will embark upon measures to transform our social and economic structure so as to reduce the vulnerability of our economy to the vagaries of external forces.

The NAR will develop a programme to promote internally propelled and sustained growth of the economy within a democratic framework.

The NAR will foster among our people a sense of security and confidence which can only be derived from positive achievement.

The NAR recognises that development and economic systems cannot be imported and it is on our own efforts that economic recovery will take place. Sustained development will only result from resilience within the economy. External resources are not a substitute for the national effort; but must be used to accelerate the processes of growth and achievement. The

National Economic Recovery Plan will be part of the longer term Economic Transformation Programme which must be relevant to our needs and consistent with our historical development and social ethos.

The NAR will pursue a clear and unequivocal policy of promotion of initiative, self-reliance, self-help and creativity in all sections of the national community.

Under an NAR Government, the State will lead the way in measures to promote efficiency, management and business training on the widest scale and in measures to promote business expansion and productivity. It will seek to create the right environment for individual and community initiative and enterprise. High priority will be given to growth and job creation in the private sector. Bureaucratic red tape will be curtailed, and administrative decisions substantially speeded up.

Economic Recovery

The NAR Economic Recovery Programme will focus on the creation of jobs, sustained and intensive effort to widen our economic base, a search for new economic space and the shaping of an environment for economic opportunities. The economic fortunes of all workers, the young and the small business sector rank high in our order of priorities. The concern is reflected in all aspects of our strategy and policies for economic change.

The NAR sees the excess capacity of the construction sector and the great potential of the agricultural sector as the foundation for an immediate Employment and Production Plan. An NAR Government will adopt measures to ensure that the resources available to the construction and agricultural sectors will be used to satisfy our acute housing needs, to ensure food security for the nation and to develop an economic infrastructure that supports the production platform.

The NAR's Employment and Production Plan will be supported by a new Industrial Strategy in the energy-based sector. New sub-sectors will be developed and their operating viability will be assured by the local economy. The generation of surplus in these sectors will be enhanced by exports to the regional Caricom and extra regional markets in both OECD and North American economies and in the ACP economies of Africa, Asia and South America.

Employment and Production Plan

The NAR will implement measures to restore the level of economic activities in the construction sector. The capacity of this sector built up during the period of boom, will now be diverted into land and housing development, irrigation and drainage, and food production.

Housing: Based on the concept of Sou-Sou Lands, which integrates finance, idle capacity and social need, new land and housing development will be pursued. To this end, a national programme for land development and distribution will be effected to structure economic activity and generate employment and social benefits.

Drainage and Irrigation: Immediate priority will be given to infrastructural works

outlined in the Caroni River Basin Study. The Caroni River Basin comprises the wards of St. Anns, Tacarigua, Arima, San Raphael, Montserrat, Chaguanas, Cunupia, Charuma, Valencia, Manzanilla and Tamana.

Infrastructural works undertaken will include flood water storage reservoirs, river diversion facilities and irrigation systems. Catchment areas for controlling floods will at the same time be used to provide irrigation. Infrastructural works that will support economic activities will be undertaken in the Oropouche Basin

Specific Initiatives in the Recovery Plan

The National Economic Recovery Plan will necessitate an inspired set of new initiatives and will require the full participation of all sectors of the population. A productive and innovative programme of action set on the basis of new inspiration will require that citizens do their part in the reconstruction effort and place our country on the road to sustainable expansion. The NAR will take the following specific initiatives to direct and propel a National Economic Recovery Plan.

Tax Regime: A new tax regime will be put into place, one that supports the expansion of the economy with major emphasis on employment.

Investment Fund: An Economic Activity Investment Fund will be established within the Commercial Banking System to redirect financial flows to viable and productive ventures in Construction, Agriculture, Housing, Tourism, Manufacturing and Service Sectors.

Self Help Projects: A comprehensive system of self-help projects will be instituted throughout the country with particular emphasis on the development of sports, recreation and leisure facilities and on the extension of utility services.

Re-order Public Capital Expenditure: A re-ordering of the priorities of capital public expenditure will be undertaken to support infrastructural development that expands the economic base and such development works that may have a direct and immediate impact on the creation of employment and income.

Revolving Funds: Special Revolving Funds will be set up to support extensive training and retraining of the working population, downstream activities of the energy sector, the area economic activity plans, the commercialisation of local raw material resources, and employment oriented activities in the service industries. External resources will be sought for the Special Revolving Investment Funds to supplement domestic financial resources.

Re-direction of State Enterprises: State financial support for the operational expenditure of Public Enterprises engaged in the production of goods not classified as public goods will cease in accordance with an agreed timetable. The funds so released will be directed to support the development of the small scale business sector including co-operative development and financially viable social welfare projects.

Demand Management: Steps will be taken to increase the demand of the national economy by adopting more sensitive monetary policy measures, changing the structure of national consumption, expanding the tourism sector with an imaginative short term programme, and re-ordering the priorities of expenditure in the context of an expansionist economic programme.

Creating Jobs

The National Alliance for Reconstruction will take the following additional initiatives in the creation of jobs:-

1) Establish a National Service/ Apprenticeship Scheme to encourage public and private sector enterprises to implement a modular learning-by-doing training system.

2) Introduce a System of Self-Help on a country wide basis which will be jointly funded by the local community and the Government.

3) Provide greater financial support to productive and job creating projects in the Local and Municipal bodies.

4) Establish a Fund-Sharing arrangement to direct the resources and activities of Service Clubs and other Community Based Organisations into job creation activities.

5) Match on an equity basis. Union investment in job creating project activities.

6) Utilise the accumulated resources of the Unemployment Levy Fund to support these and other job creating measures.

7) The NAR, in association with the unions and the workers in DEWD will restructure the programme to achieve the original purpose - ~~that is~~ - to relieve the chronic unemployment and ~~at the same time~~ train the workers to become skilled tradesmen and prepare them for permanent employment.

Training and retraining schemes will be introduced aimed at re-employment in the private or public sector.

The Work Programme will -

a Focus on the improvement of infrastructure and on realising the economic potential of depressed areas.

b Be integrated with the national planning programme to correct structural imbalances.

c Be supportive of self-help schemes to promote the objectives of the government in Agriculture and Housing.

Imperatives for a Sustained Economic Expansion

All the signs indicate that we are now headed for the kind of economic crisis in which Jamaica, Guyana and Haiti have found themselves. To arrest the decline, a number of basic things will have to be done.

1) The first and most basic imperative is more investment. Between 1982 and 1985, investment in Trinidad and Tobago declined from \$5.4 billion to \$3.9 billion - a fall of 27%. We must aim at increasing our annual investment by about \$1 billion above current levels. To accomplish this, a number of strategies will have to be pursued:

a Savings as opposed to consumption will have to be promoted both in the private and public sectors.

b Considerable savings can be effected by reducing waste and corruption in the public sector. This will be tied in with the administrative reforms an NAR Government will institute.

c Judicious foreign borrowing. This, however will be strictly related to project financing, and done on the basis of projects being able to repay the loans secured. However,

foreign borrowing will not be allowed to go to the point at which debt-servicing becomes unmanageable. Specific limits will be laid down.

d By a revision of existing arrangements, larger domestic surpluses can be generated from certain specific industries, such as fertilizer.

2) The NAR will determine investment priorities. The immediate economic crisis makes the provision of employment and incomes an imperative. Another major objective will be to protect the balance of payments and build back up the country's foreign exchange reserves after years of PNM squandermania.

These imperatives suggest investments in short term which are -

- a* As labour - intensive as possible
- b* As import - independent as possible
- c* As immediately high-yielding in terms of output per dollar of investment as possible.
- d* At a low level of technology consistent with need and present capability.

The natural candidates here are agriculture, agro-industry and construction. However, it must be remembered that industries must be established on the basis of their viability. Unemployment will only be solved by creating a multiplicity of such financially viable industries.

The long-term restructuring of the economy will require investment in certain productive sectors which will constitute the productive platforms we must build in order to become a successful exporter in the 21st century.

In the medium term these would include:

- a* the engineering industries
- b* manufacturing industries downstream of oil, fertilizers, natural gas and asphalt.
- c* agro-industry
- d* light manufacturing, producing high-quality, export-oriented consumer durables, with maximum local added value
- e* service industries, including tourism and entertainment.

There are a variety of exciting possibilities in the area of chemicals, plastics,

adhesives and lubricants which the PNM resolutely ignored. There are also a variety of possibilities downstream of steel and ammonia which await exploitation.

Capital will be switched out of declining industries and those with doubtful futures into new growth areas. Thus there will be no further investment in fertilizer production. The profitability of this industry to the country has not only been far lower than expected, but too much of our capital is now invested in this area.

In choosing the areas for investment, care will be taken to spread the risks. The NAR will opt for investment in a large number of relatively small projects rather than placing our economic eggs in one basket through investment in a small number of "mega" projects.

3) An NAR Government will seek to strike the right balance between short-term and long-term investment. It will also dramatically improve the efficiency of investment. In the boom years large sums of money were thrown away through unintelligent negotiation with foreign contractors and suppliers, through failure to plan projects adequately (ISCOTT is a classic example), and through unimaginative financing.

4) To effect the necessary switch from consumption to investment as voluntarily as possible, a wholesale revision and restructuring of this country's financial markets will be undertaken. This will include:

- A revision of the interest rate structure so as to encourage people to save more and spend less.
- Creation of special windows to provide low cost capital for loans to the productive sectors and to new specially designated industries.
- Banks will be encouraged to introduce certain reforms designed to enhance the role they play in channeling funds into productive investment.
- Reforms will be instituted aimed at opening up the country's stock exchange and bond markets to foreign investors, and especially CARICOM investors. The emphasis will be on portfolio borrowing and investment, rather than direct investment.
- The current exchange control regime will be revised.

5) Industrial policy will be not only thoroughly reformulated but an institutional reorganization will be effected.

- The IDC, DFC and EDC will be brought together, either as one corporation or

under a holding company designed to effect the co-ordination necessary between these institutions.

• The National Energy Corporation will be restructured, managerial reorganization will be effected and it will be expanded into a holding company with which the state's equity in oil and energy based companies will be lodged, and which will provide overall policy co-ordination for these companies.

6) Trinidad and Tobago urgently needs to expand substantially its cadre of first-class, properly trained managers. The University of the West Indies, while doing a great deal of good work, has not been as productive in this area as the situation demands. Institutional reforms will be encouraged. What students learn in the classroom will be more clearly integrated with what obtains in the working world. The thinking and research of faculty members will be more closely related to the real managerial problems of the productive sector.

Training of proper managers is only partially an academic exercise. More important than academic training is rotation through a variety of experiences, nationally and internationally, exposure to a range of practical problems and functions and the opportunity to practice, with the trainee manager taking on increasing responsibilities. The kind of hands-on training of managers required in the public sector, the state enterprises and the private sector takes place nowhere in this country on an organised systematic basis.

Deepening and Expanding Industrialisation

Industrialisation is a key link between the primary resource base of a society and the

primary resource base of a society and the economic welfare of its citizens. It does not only mean big plants, heavy investment and the earning of foreign exchange. The NAR will redirect the industrialisation process to achieve the following objectives:

1. Creation of Jobs: The fiscal programme will include incentives to encourage business activity that creates jobs. Incentives will also be provided to promote the use of local raw materials and the production of finished products and the earning of foreign exchange. Such ventures will create stable, well-paying jobs in industry which is an important part of our economic development programme.

One of the urgent imperatives of an NAR Government would be to institute a scheme whereby university graduates would undergo a rigorous training (and screening) programme to prepare them as managers capable of taking on international challenges. This will incorporate industrial training as an adjunct to the degree or diploma programme using the IDC, MDC and the private sector firms.

7) Trinidad and Tobago has a state enterprise sector comprising some three-score enterprises with net assets of over \$1.1 billion. By and large this sector has not been properly managed. The state has simply attempted to do too much, over too wide a range of areas.

At the same time, it is a fact that in a country with our history, if the state does not take certain initiatives in terms of getting production in particular areas moving, no one else will.

The NAR proposes to maintain a portfolio of state enterprises, but with regular divestment. As new enterprises in necessary areas are started, more mature enterprises will be spun off. This will be done in such a way as to ensure that business enterprises, business skills and economic power are not concentrated in the hands of a small, select group, but are instead diffused widely among all sections of the population.

Newly trained managers originally recruited from the best university and technical school graduates will be offered the opportunity to buy out "their" enterprises on favourable terms through special financing arrangements.

2. **Balanced Industrialisation:** Existing policy has been marked by over-concentration on heavy industry. Such heavy industries absorb much of our investment resources but create few jobs. A Balanced industrialisation programme will ensure a whole range of industries from small operations, which will involve a family at home, to larger systems where a large corporation is linked backwards to the home-shop factory. A balanced approach to industrialisation will offer flexibility and resilience as well as stability.

3. **Spread of Activity:** Every attempt will be made to spread our industries throughout the country and to create balanced communities around industry.

Our industrial programme will therefore be developed in conjunction with our National Transport Plan and our Special Areas plan. Over-centralization of industrial investment and the creation of public industrial parks have limited job creation in more remote areas such as Toco, Mayaro and Cedros. This has forced migration to the urban centres and disrupted community life. The NAR's industrialization programme will be sensitive to such issues.

Primary production in fishing and agriculture for instance, has stagnated because these have not been seriously linked to industry. The NAR is committed to linking primary process industries in the remoter areas to the country as the first link in a more balanced localised industry plan.

Industries producing goods for the export market or utilising imported materials will be located in zones co-ordinated with the ports programme, to minimize traffic congestion and reduce transport costs.

4. **Interlinking:** Interlinking of local industry is a major priority of the NAR. The higher the degree of interlinking between industries utilising local raw materials, the less dependent they will be on an unstable international market and the more stable will be the jobs created. Interlinking will be pursued both in a horizontal and a vertical manner.

In the energy sector plans will be co-ordinated with other sectors such as housing, materials manufacturing and agro-industry. This will be done primarily by downstreaming activities of existing heavy chemical plants and steel plant.

New Plants in the heavy industrial sector will ensure economic viability by supplying local users in downstream plants. Export production will then yield foreign exchange profits.

In the construction sector downstream industries should be able to provide steel-frames and specialist products, asphalt and plastics from chemicals. A long term construction programme offering assured markets will encourage materials production in this sector of the industry.

The construction industry will be able to draw on a range of small to large manufacturers located throughout the country.

Agro-industries will also stimulate downstream production of fertilizers and chemicals and will promote activity in irrigation and flood control construction, as well as infrastructural development.

In the areas of furniture, appliances, automobiles, etc., there is tremendous scope for the substitution of parts and materials in the process. These industries can be linked to the heavy industrial sector for the supply of paints, plastics and steel parts. On the other hand, they can be linked to small scale specialised components.

5. Maximising Added Value: No efforts will be spared to root our new industrialisation thrust in local raw materials, financing and expertise. Export production will rest soundly on a local base as far as is possible. This will ensure a high value added throughout the economy.

6. Widening Ownership and Participation: The National Alliance for Reconstruction proposes wider participation in the ownership and decision making aspects of Economic Life. The adversarial approach between business, labour and government will be discouraged. Our programme will include the following:

a. Producers Co-operatives: As part of the regional Special Area Development programmes, co-operatives will be encouraged both by fiscal incentives and direct public sector support. As part of the programme to widen participation in industry these co-operatives will be encouraged to undertake primary processing of agricultural and fish products.

Co-operatively owned primary processing units in the rural areas will be linked up with more centralised processing plants that require heavy capitalisation. These can be completely privately owned or shareholding companies in which the very producer co-ops should be encouraged to hold shares.

b. Increase in Small Businesses: This will be another approach of the NAR to link people to industry. Small business is currently largely limited to the crafts, food preparation and retailing. The NAR will integrate small business into the mainstream of industry.

Small business will be encouraged to produce specialised products, such as components for the consumer durables industry. This will encourage the home-shop to increase its level of technology and capitalisation while generating permanent employment opportunities. Share participation in the large assembly industries will be encouraged.

c. Divestment in State-Sector: In the State-Sector industries of all types, the Nar proposes to introduce meaningful forms of participation in ownership of shares divested.

In such areas as Caroni Limited, profit sharing and distribution of land equity will be combined to reduce further wage burdens in a new area of co-operation between the State, the union, private supplier and investors.

d. Encouragement of Public Shareholding in Private Sector: The public issue of shares has broadened ownership in private industry. The NAR, by providing

incentives to purchasers, will further broaden the base of the ownership throughout the society.

The NAR will support the further development of the Stock Exchange market and will adopt appropriate measures to influence the direction of financial flows to strategic sectors that are prime movers in economic development.

Small Business: Foundation of the National Economy

An NAR Government will adopt the following measures, among others to assist in bringing the small man into the mainstream of economic activity.

1. Special Economic activity Fund: Promotion of a Special Economic Activity Fund with the co-operation of the commercial banking sector. This fund will cater for small business activity that was previously excluded from commercial financing. The fund will be administered through small business windows by, for example, the DFC and IDC Existing funds will be co-ordinated in a national Development Bank.

2. Co-operatives: Encouragement of producer co-operatives to prevent the elimination of small producers by economic conditions and expansion of larger producers. Especially in the area of agriculture and cottage industry, this will allow for wider participation by our citizens.

In agriculture, a range of activities from equipment pooling to bulk purchasing of seed and fertilisers will be the beginning. Cooperative effort in internal drainage, access roads and irrigation, as well as storage and processing activities, will also be encouraged. Minimum guaranteed prices will be provided to encourage these activities as well as minimum quotas aimed at substitution of local for foreign inputs.

National Resource Utilisation in the areas of forest products and ocean/river resources will also be encouraged but within acceptable standards of conservation.

Encouragement for the establishment of fishing co-operatives along our coastal areas. Such co-operatives would promote a collective approach to the storing and marketing of fish; the importation of fishing gear and tackle, including engines.

3. Strong support for consumer co-operatives throughout the country: In this system of co-operatives, the NAR will encourage a Central Co-operative Unit to engage in bulk buying of all types--including importation where necessary--from which the co-operatives in this national network can purchase in bulk, free from the excessive and exorbitant mark-ups.

Incentives to taxi-operator co-operatives for a collective approach to insurance coverage, purchase of spare parts and tyres and negotiations with Transport Authorities.

4. Steps to Promote the Putting Out System: This is an integral step in linking small business into the mainstream of economic life. Small business has been concentrated in food processing preparation, retailing, arts and crafts and undercapitalised trade-manufacturing.

Small business will now also produce inputs for manufacturing and processing industries. They may produce single components or components with high capital or skill requirements. Exploitation of this sector will be eliminated by proper co.ordination at the state level.

Industries ripe for such activities include the car and consumer durables industry. Suitable arrangement would also be made between agricultural producers co-ops and processing industries. The area of on-shore well work-overs is also an area with major potential for entry by small businesses.

Incentives will be geared towards encouragement of both the putting-out small business and the inputting larger industry. Government soft window financing and other support measures will be geared to encourage these activities.

5. Promotion of the Self-Help Mechanism: By these arrangements, individuals and communities will be able to obtain matching funds, equipment, materials or expertise when they show willingness to provide some or part. These projects will be for the provision of economic and social infrastructure or even co-operative, group or individual economic activity.

One of the major impediments to a better balanced economic development between classes and regions is the level of physical and economic and regions in the level of physical and economic infrastructure. In co-operation with the local communities and local government bodies, there will be programmes to provide utilities such as phones, water, electricity as well as information dissemination and postal services to previously under-developed communities within our nation.

6. Housing: More direct attention will be given to the use of state land resources for the housing, agricultural and business needs of the small man.

7. Divestment and Tri-Sector approach: An NAR Government will pursue divestment and the tri-sector approach as one of the fundamental measures to promote participation of the larger number in ownership and control of the national economy. The existing State Sector precludes this. Some enterprises are run at a loss and are a burden on the treasury, others that make money are in the hands of a few who are not accountable to the population. The NAR will pioneer mechanisms to bring the state sector enterprises to the people by our own brand of divestment.

We will give workers, their representatives, the unions, and the people of Trinidad and Tobago in general, a chance to participate in the ownership, control and the benefits of the state sector. The tri-sector approach is one mechanism by which the nature and extent of divestment may be determined for the benefit of the citizenry as a whole.

Enterprises which are essential for the public welfare even though they may not be economically viable immediately, will be kept under state ownership and control. Those that are not essential for the public welfare but which can be viable if operated under different management; as well as those which are competitive with the private sector with no special benefit accruing to the citizens, will be divested.

8. Management assistance, such as accounting, entry and marketing assistance.
9. Financial assistance in areas such as venture capital and equipment funding.
10. Export promotion.
11. Transport cost regularization through tariff structures for intra-regional trade.
12. Government procurement whereby greater access by means of a targeted percentage of orders and the promotion of joint orders is facilitated.
13. Measures for sub-contracting through a sub-contractors law where the rules of sub-contracting are set out and assistance and advice are provided.
14. Sector adjustments to include a modernization plan and structural adjustments for strengthening as well as technological transfer and guidance.
15. A tax relief system.
16. Basic Law for Small Business Enterprises.

Fiscal Relief and Incentives for Savings and Investment

stimulating growth and expansion of the national economy.

Over the past four years (1982 - 1985) the Government has consistently spent more than it has collected to the tune of \$3 billion dollars in 1982; \$2.9 billion in 1983; \$2.5 billion in 1984; and an estimated \$1.5 billion in 1985. Over this four year period it has dissipated all the savings from the oil-boom years amounting to ten billion dollars.

This has occurred even though in 1982, Government collected the highest ever amount of current revenue in the country's history - \$6.6 billion. Elections spending has been the main cause of this financial debacle. The PNM has in this way demonstrated complete irresponsibility and fiscal madness in its control of the public treasury.

NAR Fiscal Policy goals will emphasize incentives for saving and investment, and

In support of these:

1. The NAR will establish a Tax Performance Committee to review the tax system and advise on changes and, to monitor the system on a continuous basis.

Pending the report of that Committee and in view of the high contribution made by individuals in recent years of mounting inflation, and to provide immediate relief, all individuals with an income up to and including \$12,000 will be exempted from income tax.

2. The Tax Performance Committee will be required to review and make recommendations on the following proposals:

- a Increase of the personal allowance to \$12,000.

b Exemption from taxation for interest payments of up to \$12,000 per annum on all savings. Tax on interest payments above this figure will be at a fixed rate and collected at the source of the interest.

c Exemption from taxation for pension payments up to \$12,000 per annum. Tax on pension payments above this figure will be levied at a fixed rate and collected at the source of the pension.

d A special one-time fixed incentive allowance for first-time owners/occupiers of new dwelling houses.

e Increasing of the maximum annual income qualification for old age pension ..

f Adjustment in the basic tax structure by establishing differential tax rates to encourage

- Maximum re-investment of retained profits
- Increased long-term savings
- Application of new technology in the production process.

g Introduction of a system of enhanced allowances to encourage business expansion and industrial growth. These will be applied to:

- Increases in wage payroll for additional persons employed
- Local value added
- Profits from net foreign exchange earnings
- New products and/or services that generate invisible export earnings
- Social expenditure on training of workers and specific community work

Special allowances and/or incentives to be available to firms participating in the Youth Training Scheme and the National Apprentice Scheme.

Foreign Exchange Controls

The NAR will simplify the processing of applications for foreign exchange within the context of a national system of foreign exchange budgeting.

The new system will:

a Allow citizens and residents to operate foreign exchange accounts in circumstances which will be prescribed.

b Link access to foreign exchange to the earning of foreign exchange via the foreign exchange budget programme.

National Financial Development Institution

The NAR will take steps to integrate all development finance institutions, viz., the Agricultural Development Bank, the Industrial Development Corporation and the Development Finance Company into a National Development Bank.

The National Development Bank will fund economic development projects of the public sector, administer a counterpart funding programme for the private sector.

The National Development Bank will seek development finance from national, regional and international finance institutions, and in association with the Central Bank will be empowered to raise capital in the local and international money markets.

Loans that support the following objectives will be considered preferentially:

a The establishment of small scale cottage industries consistent with the economic development thrust;

b Tri-sector ownership enterprises;

c The linkage and value added impact of the commercial venture;

d The short-term income creating and employment potential of a commercial venture;

e Viable food production ventures.

Foreign Investment

The NAR acknowledges a valuable role for private foreign capital within our national development objectives. To this end the following measures will be taken:

1. Foreign Investment and Technology : Commission will be established to examine, approve, monitor and evaluate foreign investments and to set out guidelines for the encouragement of private foreign capital. The purpose of this screening process is to ensure consistency in objectives and in treatment of all forms of investment.

2. The National Screening Commission on Foreign Investment will include representatives of Labour, Local Capital, Financial Institutions and Government.

3. Legal or bureaucratic constraints to the implementation of approved foreign investment will be eliminated and all investments related to concessions will be equally applicable to national and to foreign investment.

4. Investment by Trinidad and Tobago nationals abroad, especially investment in the Caribbean area, will be facilitated for foreign exchange earnings within a specific time period.

State Sector

Today, the State Sector is dominant in the economic life of Trinidad and Tobago and has, over the last two decades, expanded into areas normally left to private sector initiatives. While it is the responsibility of the State to effect national direction of the economy it must do so with efficiency and purpose and must not encourage and support poor and inefficiently managed enterprises. The performance of some State Enterprises has been dismal and remains a financial burden on the national treasury.

The NAR recognises the specific and prescribed role that State Enterprises will continue to play in the transformation process. In the current economic circumstances the State will have to draw on the full potential of the Labour and Business Sectors and develop and implement a Programme for the financial viability of State Enterprises. Where employment, cost of living and linkage benefits override financial viability, a predetermined subsidy arrangement will be put into place. In all cases, the cost of Government subsidies must be equated to wider economic benefits to generate revenue for the national treasury and to support the NAR's expansionist economic programme.

Accordingly, the NAR policy on State Enterprises will be based on the following proposals:

Programme of Divestment: For State Enterprises engaged in the supply of private goods, a Programme of Divestment will be put into effect. Shares in such State Enterprises will be offered to workers and their affiliated Unions, and to local capital. The capital structure of these enterprises will be altered so as to reduce the financial burden on the treasury and place the enterprise on a financially viable basis.

Enhanced Investment and Subsidisation: In State Enterprises where the financial viability of the operations is dependent on the introduction of additional fixed and working capital, a policy of enhanced investment will be pursued to provide additional capitalisation and to allow for a new management style that supports efficiency and accountability. The sources of enhanced investment will be drawn from State Financial Institutions, Labour Unions and the Private Sector.

In State Enterprises where the economic benefits override financial viability, the state will support and fund capital expansion of these enterprises and provide a fixed form of subsidy to meet part of the operating expenditure on such enterprises. The subsidy arrangement will be linked to output levels to limit the burden on the national treasury and institute a built-in incentive for efficient use of resources and for expanded production. In these enterprises, performance auditing will be made a statutory requirement and reports on performance auditing will be laid in Parliament on an annual basis.

Training and Accountability: Based on these initiatives to restructure and place State Enterprises on a firm and prescribed footing the NAR will adopt the following additional measures:

1) A Special Training Programme for employees of State Enterprises will be introduced and be given the highest priority. The Training Programme will emphasize new decision making tools for management and worker retraining to meet the challenges of new technologies.

2) All bureaucratic constraints to decision making in the management of these enterprises will be removed, and the Board of Directors will be held responsible for all affairs of the enterprises and will be given full authority to act. Workers' representatives will be specially allotted seats on the Board of Directors, without

prejudice to workers' representation based on share ownership in these enterprises.

3) All enterprises involving state participation will be required to publish detailed financial accounts annually and within the prescribed time limits. This provision will be strictly enforced and failure to comply will attract the specific penalties spelled out in the appropriate Statutes and Ordinances. Provisions in the law will be made more specific on the question of accountability.

4) In the context of this new thrust, each State Enterprise will be treated on an individual basis taking consideration of the peculiar circumstances and specific history of the enterprise. A Plan for Divestment, Capital Enhancement, Training, Production Expansion, Changes in Management Style and Accountability will be formulated and implemented for each enterprise as appropriate. In the development of these Plans, there will be wide participation of all interested parties which shall include the workers and other potential shareholders. A firm timetable will be strictly maintained.

[Part 6: Human Dignity and Social Progress]

Industrial Relations: An NAR Government will promote a participatory role of the Labour Sector in the management of the social and economic system. This role will be reflected in measures for workers share ownership, participation in decision making, profit sharing arrangements and the development of tri-sector proposals for some state enterprises.

The tri-partite Conference will provide a forum to encourage innovative mechanisms for the evolution of our social democracy. In our proposals for the financing of economic development, trade unions will play an integral

part as our nation constantly strives to achieve national consensus and a new nationalism.

Within this framework, the NAR will make a concerted effort to improve the system of collective bargaining and so improve the industrial relations climate. To do so, the NAR will:

1) Provide under the direction of the Industrial Court support for the full disclosure of relevant information to trade unions in the collective bargaining process.

2) Place on the agenda of the Tripartite Conference a proposal of the social compact plan for Trinidad and Tobago. By social compact, we mean a binding agreement based on social reality covering the issues of production, productivity, incomes, prices and distribution.

3) Actively encourage workers' share ownership and the maintenance of high standards of safety, health and the work environment in the work place. The NAR will set an example of workers participation in management of the retained State Enterprises.

4) Review the Industrial Relations Act.

5) Redirect Manpower development policy to place emphasis on the re-skilling of workers.

6) Use the Development Financing Foundation to encourage the use of Pension Funds for financially viable employment creating investment.

7) Pursue a programme to link severance benefit payments for employment creating activities.

8) Support measures to expand trade union concern to incorporate the total welfare of workers, which will include training, housing, health care and social service.

Public Interest Legislation:

Consumer legislation, however sophisticated, will only marginally protect consumers unless provisions in the act are enforceable and there is an effective enforcement machinery. Rights are redundant unless the machinery for their

enforcement is effective and appropriate remedies exist to compensate the victim.

For the protection of the public interest, the NAR will therefore:

- 1) Review the Standard Act, Sale of Goods Act, the Hire Purchase Act.
- 2) Develop a cheaper, quicker and less formal method for an arbitration system through the courts. In this system, consumers must be able to appear without lawyers to handle claims involving small sums.
- 3) Review the Companies Act.
- 4) Review the role of the Supervisor of Insurance to give effect to stricter compliance under the regulation of the Insurance Act.
- 5) Review the Workers Compensation Laws.
- 6) Review Legislation and legal process for the protection of the public interest to reflect changing social and economic needs of the country.
- 7) Embark upon a vigorous programme of Consumer Education so as to provide the consumer with at least a rudimentary understanding of the market-place and to alert him to his responsibilities as a consumer in the protection of his interest.

[Part 8: Local Government]

The NAR will transform the system of Local Government. Local Government will be released from the stranglehold of Central Government through a system of decentralisation, and will be organised in such a manner as to service the need of the people as the people themselves see fit.

All functions of a Local Government nature will be brought under the control of the respective authorities, and the scope of Local Government increased and its powers enhanced. Local Government Bodies will make a vital input into NAR's programme of regional economic development. They will be encouraged to contribute to the planning and implementation of programmes, to draw on local talents, skills and resources and provide local insights into the needs and problems of specific areas.

[Part 9: Democracy in Our Region]

The NAR is fully committed to democracy. The subversion of the democratic process anywhere in our region is an assault upon the fundamental human and civil rights of our people and a threat to our own democratic framework.

Caribbean Commission of Human Rights: To protect all our people and our democratic institutions, the NAR will promote a Caribbean Commission of Human Rights, comprising personnel from Caribbean Territories who share this concern.

Caribbean Court of Appeal: The NAR will undertake a review of the legal framework of our society. In this regard, steps will be taken to place on the national and regional agenda the proposal to establish a Caribbean Court of Appeal that brings together the best legal minds in the Caribbean.

Citizenship: Over the years, many of our citizens have taken up fulltime residence in the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom. Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago living abroad have acquired technical skills, management techniques and capital and are being forced to

give up their Trinidad and Tobago citizenship because of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago. They represent a net national asset and may add significantly to the managerial transformation of our society and increase the inflow of capital.

There are also many citizens of our sister Commonwealth Caribbean Countries who are residing in Trinidad and Tobago although their legal status remains in doubt. Many such persons have been living in Trinidad and Tobago for a number of years and have established families and have contributed significantly to our development.

To address these situations and to advance our national development efforts, the NAR proposes:

Dual Citizenship: To allow persons born in Trinidad and Tobago to be granted dual citizenship themselves, their spouses and their immediate family.

The NAR will also promote the idea of a Common Caribbean Citizenship for persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the region as a whole.

[Part 10: Regional Program of Reconstruction]

Tobago: The political union of Trinidad and Tobago is one of the oldest in the West Indies coming after many attempts at uniting several of the islands that had failed.

The institutional framework within which the twin islands operate must be enhanced to give effect to greater meaningful participation

and involvement by the people of Tobago in the political, economic and social processes of our nation. Tobago at one time was nicknamed the 'breadbasket' of Trinidad. However, its agricultural base was seriously eroded by lack of incentives, lack of capital, neglect by government resulting in poor infrastructure including roads

and poor transportation facilities with many productive areas still being inaccessible. The industrialisation thrust embarked upon by the government affected Tobago in so far as no significant industrial units were located in the island and agriculture, the mainstay of its economy was excluded from its development thrust with the result that the economy of Tobago was forced into a state of total dependency on Trinidad.

In the circumstances, the NAR proposes the following actions within the framework of the Tobago Development Plan:

1) Tourism, agriculture and light manufacturing including agro-industry will be the main plank upon which the economy of Tobago will be revitalised by the provision of the following:

a. Adequate port facilities to accommodate cruise ships for the tourism industry and to meet the requirements of an expanding economy.

b. Lengthening of the Crown Point Runway to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft.

c. Measures to protect the island from pollution and spoilation of its coral reefs and beaches and destruction of its marine life.

d. The establishment of a Sporting Complex as part of the recreational and entertainment facilities adequate for an international clientele and domestic tourism.

e. Introduction of measures to facilitate the development of the various forms of the cultural heritage unique to Tobago.

In order to achieve popular support for tourism the NAR Government will ensure that

the benefits of tourism are widely spread to directly involve as many citizens as possible.

2. A revitalisation of the agricultural sector by the provision of the following:

a. Incentive to Farmers

b. Improvement in the infrastructure by the provision of access roads to inaccessible fertile lands and improve transportation capabilities.

c. Irrigation and drainage

d. Better Marketing facilities

e. Research and the employment of modern scientific techniques

f. Re-distribution of state lands

g. Food processing

3. Cannery operations and facilities for the salting and smoking of fish can be sited at major fishing centres where much of the catch is at present dumped. Under-utilised fish will be used for various high protein products for both human and animal consumption.

Proper cold storage facilities will be established at fishing centres and efficient marketing arrangements set up linked to fish processing industries.

The development of fishing co-operatives will be encouraged.

Promotion of industries based upon agriculture and fisheries and light manufacture for local consumption and export to Caricom and other markets.

Linkage industries such as engine and boat manufacture and repairs, net and tackle manufacture and repairs will also be developed.

Small, sheltered fishing ports will be established in Tobago where appropriate.

[Part 14: NAR Foreign Policy]

Under the NAR, foreign policy will become an active agent in expanding the economic, political and cultural frontiers of Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago, particularly as a small, developing Third World nation, must not be contained by super-power rivalry nor by the power of intrigue of hot and cold wars, nor by the hazards of espousing one ideological camp over the other, as it charts its course on the international front.

The NAR will continuously multiply its efforts in fostering multilateral co-operation on all international fronts in the spirit of genuine interdependence. With such a thrust on the international front we shall forever be increasing our share in the collective security that international and regional organisations may offer as well as safeguarding our sovereignty and independence among the world of nations. Towards these ends, NAR will:

Safeguarding our Economic and Political Sovereignty: Pursue vigorously its democratic and nationalist thrust in the arena of international affairs, its economical and political interest in all quarters and safeguard its sovereignty as a nation. The NAR will work out trading and commercial relations with states the world over, but particularly along the South-South axis. In furtherance of the above, the NAR will strengthen its bonds among the Third World fraternity of nations at the United Nations as well as work towards the realisation of the ideals of the Non-Aligned Movement and in all forums that are directed against colonialism, racism, imperialism, apartheid, nuclear proliferation and will never tire in championing the cause of human rights in all quarters.

Non-Alignment: The Non-Aligned Movement, notwithstanding its political and ideological heterogeneity, is the major voice of Third World countries and a safeguard against bi-polarisation. It is a political statement of solidarity especially on the issue of decolonisation, and we of the NAR stand firm with this thrust.

A New International Economic Order: The NAR will join ranks with other developing countries that are working towards a New International Economic Order.

a) Presently the developing world is victim of its own weaknesses. It has not yet overcome the artificial divisions which is its inheritance from the colonial partition of the World. The collective strategy of the developed world to promote and maintain the "metropole-satellite" cordon has to be met with a collective strategy on the part of the developing world to break this cordon at all levels. Protectionism, uneven terms of trade, the high economic and political cost of meeting the terms for the transfer of technology and the policy limitations of the International Monetary System, have placed many a developing country into a perpetual debt trap.

b) The NAR will join ranks with all those countries that calling for re-scheduling the terms of international debt and supports the call of the Cartagena Group for "a return of real interest rates to their historical levels" so as to

make debt refinancing possible on more equitable terms for the transfer of technology and the exploitation of our national resources and an end to the trade barriers imposed by the developed world.

c) The NAR in advancing the cause for a N.I.E.O. will support the case for Third World Financial Institutions to fund development projects and the establishment of mineral and agricultural cartels of Third World Countries. So as to foster greater unity and sharing among the developed world the NAR will work towards the establishment of a Third World University in which U.W.I. will have a role to play.

d) Whenever and wherever possible, the NAR will encourage and promote the transfer of technology and expertise among and between Third World Countries. Moreover, in seeking to broaden and strengthen its commercial and trading relations, the NAR will make a decisive thrust with neighbouring Latin American countries and will pursue a general South to South relations strategy with the idea of promoting a viable economic alternative to super power domination.

Regionalism and Caribbean Unity: Trinidad and Tobago must once again assume its rightful role in the Caribbean community. In keeping with this view, the NAR will pursue vigorously the cause of regionalism and spare no effort in working towards a stronger and integrated Caribbean. In so doing, the NAR will advocate the case for Regional Security and the inviolability of the sovereignty of individual states. The NAR will promote Caribbean unity as a cultural and historical reality and take steps to further unite the people of the Caribbean. On the economic front, the NAR will support the expansion of the Caricom area and will pursue specific measures to deepen the Caribbean Integration Movement.

The Caribbean must be made a Zone of Peace at all times.

A Third World Economic Thrust: The NAR is committed to "beefing up Caricom" and to assisting our Caricom neighbours as far as possible. We must also

look beyond Caricom and beyond our traditional trading associates. There is much scope for the promotion of a profitable trade in petroleum and energy based manufactures. Latin America is a market that sits in our backyard and this we must tap to the fullest.

The NAR will take advantage of concessionary trade arrangements as are contained in Lome, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, Caricom and Carican, and will also explore Third World markets with our wide range of manufactured products from our energy based sector.

Because of historical connections and the universal trauma of colonialism, Trinidad and Tobago is already an ally with Third World countries on many fronts. This is particularly the case with Asia, Africa, the Middle East, which are the "root-lands" of many of our citizenry. While deepening and strengthening our political and cultural connections with these states and peoples, we must also explore economic avenues that would redound to our national development.

Trinidad and Tobago, by virtue of its cultural heterogeneity alone can be a tourist haven for these long forgotten populations. At the same time, we must explore to the fullest the new kinship relationships between our citizens

and their relations in the U.S.A., Canada and the United Kingdom.

A New Venezuela Initiative

Given the proximity of Venezuela to Trinidad and Tobago and the perennial problems that inevitably emerge over the joint exploitation of our adjoining marine resources, commercial and diplomatic contacts between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela have to be vigorously pursued so as to bring greater understanding and levels of co-operation between the two countries.

Upgrading our Mission Staff

The success of these new initiatives in our foreign policy depends upon a new type of diplomatic and mission staff as well as for the establishment of new missions. Mission staff must be knowledgeable in the social and technical sciences including specialists in given areas if the situation demands.

To this end, the NAR will pursue the restructuring of the Institute of International Relations to reflect a positive technical and commercial thrust in our diplomatic relations.

Removing the Language Barrier

Given our thrust upon the Latin American Frontier, the NAR will place greater emphasis on the teaching of Spanish in the nation's schools, as well as at the extra-mural and community levels for the citizenry at large. Language must not be a barrier to the expansion of our Frontiers.

South Africa: The NAR is committed to the end of Apartheid and views the South African situation as the most explosive human situation facing our world civilization. The NAR will provide full support to measures, including mandatory economic, political and military sanctions to bring an end to apartheid in South Africa once and for all. As a small country, Trinidad and Tobago must play a positive role in addressing the South African situation and indeed in our conduct in international politics and diplomacy. We must at all times place new emphasis on this problem.

An NAR Government will scrupulously examine the credentials of companies operating in Trinidad and Tobago which are suspected of having trading links or other ties with South Africa. South African products will be banned from entering Trinidad and Tobago.

/9274

CSO: 3298/069

CPTU LENDS SUPPORT TO CALL FOR TRADE UNION FEDERATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Dec 86 p 15

[Text]

COUNCIL OF Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) has approved its central executive's decision to support yet another call for labour unity made by the President General of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), George Weekes, and has agreed that a labour unity committee be established for the purpose of setting up a trade union federation, following which the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress and the CPTU would be disbanded.

The matter was among a wide range of topics discussed at the CPTU's grand council meeting held in Port-of-Spain on Saturday.

An Inquiry

Meanwhile, the grand council has condemned the continued suspension of 20 workers by the management of the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) since October and its insistence on conducting an inquiry into the conduct of workers when, according to the CPTU, the issue arose after the consistent late payment of wages.

In light of this, the CPTU Grand Council has called on the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Public Utilities and National Transportation and

PTSC management to withdraw the suspensions and reinstate the workers before Monday, General Election Day.

The Union has also expressed concern about the three-month impasse between Federation Chemicals Limited (Fedchem) and its hourly rated workers, labelling the lock-out "an indictment against Industrial Relations".

According to a CPTU statement, appeals to Government authorities to settle the dispute have been successful, likewise the staging of several demonstrations.

The Union is now seeking a meeting with the Minister of Labour, the Employers' Consultative Association (ECA) and the Trade Union movement in an effort to resolve the issue before Monday.

And, further, the CPTU has registered its disapproval of "retrenchment via the Receivership strategy", describing it as "a most dehumanising and wicked action against workers and their dependents".

"This new strategy has caused many workers to be retrenched and out of work, without being paid Severance Pay", it was stated.

The Government and the ECA have been asked to intervene in this issue.

/9274

CSO: 3298/069

OPPOSITION PRESENTS ALTERNATE 'FULL STOP' BILL

PY202156 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] Montevideo, 19 Dec (EFE)--The main Uruguayan opposition party tonight introduced a bill calling for a "full stop" to the prosecution of military and police personnel involved in human rights violations during the "de facto" regime (1973-1985).

The bill introduced by the National (Blanco) Party includes some changes to the government proposal which the Senate has been debating since 18 December.

The opposition initiative expressly excludes military personnel who have committed abuses with no orders from their superiors to do so, and those involved in economic crimes during the authoritarian regime.

According to the opposition proposal, the Executive Branch will determine when the militarymen acted on orders from their superiors and when they acted illegally on their own, in order to allow the civilian judges to either continue the case or suspend it.

The Blanco Party bill, like the one issued by the government, establishes the transitory nature of the actions against the military.

The bill is more in keeping with what Army Commander in Chief Hugo Medina called for in 1984, when the country's democratization was being discussed. He said that the Armed Forces would support those military men who acted on orders from their superior commands, but that they "would not tolerate unlawfulness."

The two main Uruguayan parties seek quick solutions to the human rights issue "to prevent an institutional crisis which," according to congressmen, "could take place through the reported disobedience of the military to the arrest warrants issued by the civilian judges.

The disobedience also represents disrespect for the president of the Republic when he orders the detentions as commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

During the Senate debate that began on 18 December and continued on the following day, the leftist "Broad Front" coalition opposed "any attempt at immunity," and told the government to "demand respect for the Constitution and the laws, which will mobilize the people to support the government, because otherwise the military will continue as guardians of democracy. This will no longer be a democracy if immunity is intended," according to Senator Francisco Rodriguez Camusso.

The Trade Union Central Organization has called for a march in front of the Legislative Palace to reject the initiatives to suspend the prosecution of the military repressors.

The relatives of missing persons staged a demonstration at the downtown Plaza Cagancha, to demand "trial and punishment."

There were approximately 167 missing Uruguayans during the "dirty war," but only 35 of them disappeared within the national territory. The others disappeared in Argentina, with the exception of three who were reported missing in Chile and two in Paraguay.

/12624

CSO: 3348/143

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEADERS GRANT CONFERENCE

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 6 Dec 86 p 5

[From the "First Hand" column]

[Text] Young members of the Uruguayan Communist Party [PCU] yesterday gave a press conference to respond to the allegedly offensive remarks that National Party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate made about the PCU.

The absence at the press conference of veteran members such as Rodney Arismendi, Jaime Perez, Enrique Rodriguez, Leopoldo Bruera, and others, who are still the main PCU leaders, was certainly noticed.

The group of leaders who gave the conference can be thought of as "the new guard." The main PCU spokesman at the conference was young Propaganda Secretary Estaban Valenti, 36, whom many believe to be "the crown prince," or Arismendi's heir to the PCU presidency. It is said that Valenti is received with honors in Moscow whenever he attends the friendly meetings between the PCU and the CPSU. Valenti, who has spent many years in exile, is a graduate in the science of communications and was the director of the short-lived "national news agency" PRESSUR, whose president was Juan Raul Ferreira.

Also attending the press conference were Leon Lev, former outstanding university student leader who was a prisoner of the dictatorship for years, and is currently secretary general of the Communist Youth, despite being many years older than Valenti, Jorge Mazzarovich; Gonzalo Carambula (LA HORA DAILY director and a deputy), who has ever-increasing influence in the PCU Central committee; and Deputy Andres Toriani, former leader of the Uruguayan Health Federation [Federacion Uruguaya de Salud --FUS].

Thus, there has been a radical change. Not one member of the old guard was present at the press conference. Only young people were there and this seems to foreshadow a change of course in the national communist scenario.

/12624

CSO: 3348/143

BRIEFS

BLANCO PARTY FACTION SPLITS--The national congress of the Nationalist Popular Faction [CPN] of the Blanco Party yesterday cast 226 votes for and only 106 against leaving the Blanco Party "over total disagreement" with the leadership of Wilson Ferreira Aldunate. Thus, it has become an "independent" movement led by Deputy Carlos Pita and has reinstated Marcos Gutierrez who left his faction of the Blanco Party several months ago. The members of the faction who voted against the split will remain within the Blanco Party under the leadership of Amalia Alonso, a member of the municipal council. It has not been reported whether they will make up a new faction or will merge with some existing faction. The tense meeting at which the split of the CPN from the Blanco Party was decided took place amid a great deal of nervousness. [Text] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 1 Dec 86 p 1 PY] /12624

CSO: 3348/143

- END -

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

Feb 3, 1987